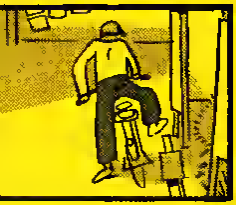
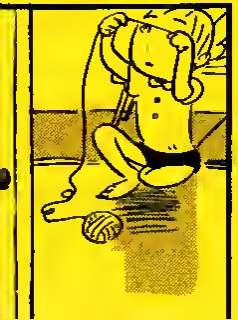
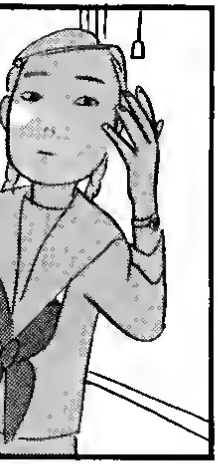


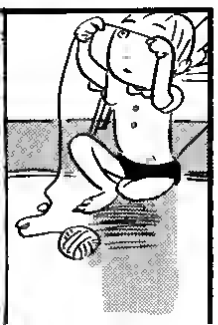


黄色い本

ジャック・チボーという名の友人

高野文子





Introduction

Published by Kōdansha in 2003 and awarded the prestigious Tezuka Cultural Prize, Fumiko Takano's *The Yellow Book* is one of those rare works which you enjoy reading in order to feel the tender familiarity that arises between the protagonists and yourself. This collected volume was named after the longest of the four stories that it contains, a drama about an adolescent girl who falls in love with Roger Martin du Gard's saga, *Les Thibault*. The remaining stories capture various fragments of everyday life with tenderness and humor. Through the kaleidoscope of its feminine views, *The Yellow Book* touches the readers' heart by attending to what, in sum, makes up life – the little things of our every day.

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The Yellow Book

A Friend Named Jacques Thibault

Fumiko Takano

黄色い本

ジャック・チボーという名の友人

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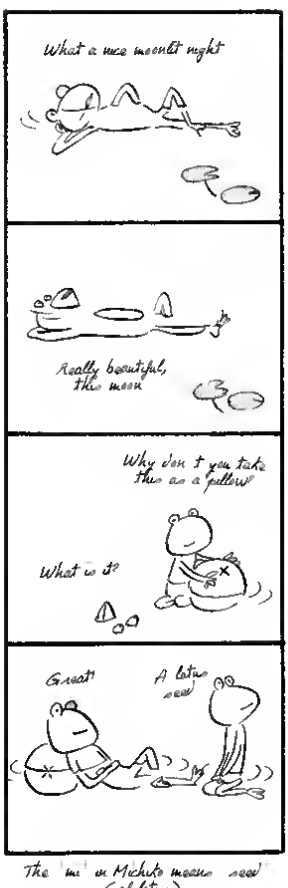
KOTONOHA
言の葉
kotonoha.monkey-pirate.com

Chapter 1

Michiko Tai


What a nice moonlit night
Really beautiful, the moon
Why don't you take this as a pillow?
What is it?
Great!
A lotus seed!
The "mi" in Michiko means seed (of lotus)

"THIS TIME, HE HASN'T COME BACK ALL DAY', CRIED MR. THIBAULT WHO HAD STOOD UP."

いや、今度という今度はがまんこん！」チボー氏はぐっと腰に力を入れて立ちあがった。

"- SO, ANTOINE...?
- WELL, FATHER... IN CASE HE RAN AWAY ON PURPOSE..."

"...WITH THE RED HAIR PLANTED LIKE GRASS ON HIS LOW FRONS*, AND HIS BONY HEAD WITH THE BIG EARS"

ひたいの上に麦の穂のようにつっ立っている赤っ毛。あごは、おまたがんじょうなやつ、

*FRONS FOREHEAD

"I WON'T LET MYSELF BE CONTROLLED!, SAID JACQUES, BITING OFF A MOUTHFUL OF BREAD."

勝手にすがいいや！」ジャックはパンをひと口かみとりながら言った。

一勝手にするがいい
と、ジ
パン
かぶ
がら
"...WON'T LET MYSELF BE CONTROLLED!" "_.BITING OFF A MOUTHFUL OF BREAD."

MICHIKO!
WE'RE GETTING OFF!
ARGH...
I FEEL SICK
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU READ WHEN IT'S RAINING
BAM
BAM

THAT I'M A WEAK PERSON.
WHICH MEANS?
IT'S BECAUSE OF MY FRAIL CONSTITUTION, YOU KNOW
ARE YOU OKAY?
THANKS.
HMM, YOU THINK SO?
—HUH, MICHIKO?
YOU LIKE USING COMPLICATED WORDS.
PLIS

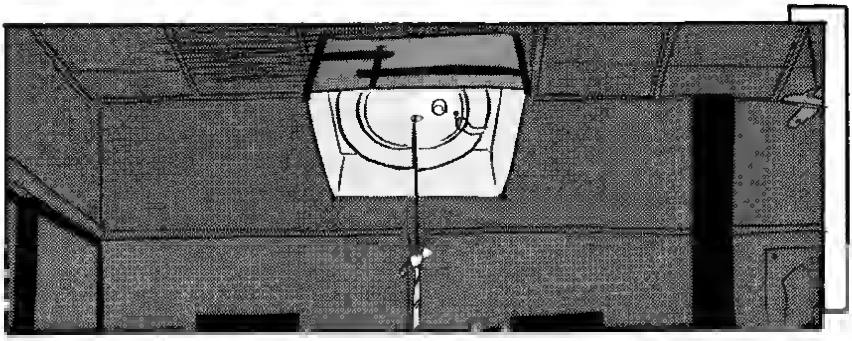
PLOK
PLOK
HELLO MY DEAR LITTLE COUSIN!
KAK
MICHIKO! YOU'RE HOME?
HEY, CAN YOU LEND ME LALA?
TAP
TAP
TAP
OF COURSE.

AUNTIE WENT OUT TO BUY SOYA SAUCE
I'M THE ONE LOOKING AFTER THE HOUSE
THAT'S GOOD
CLUNK
UHUH, YOU CAN EAT A SWEET POTATO IF YOU'RE HUNGRY

(1) "THE THIBAULTS"

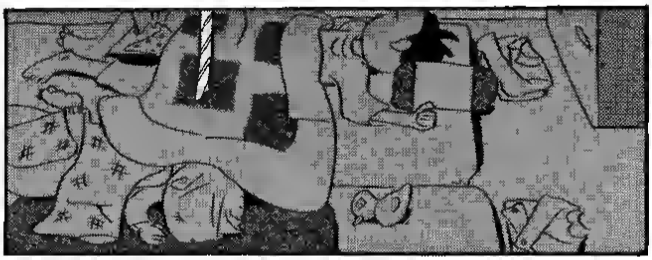
DON'T CARE
OUCH, IT HURTS
HEY, KINEO, DID YOU STICK A PLASTER ON YOURSELF?
HUH, YOU HAVE A PLASTER ON YOUR LEG?
LULU!
KINEO CAN'T TAKE HIS PLASTER OFF..
..WHY DON'T YOU HELP HIM?
HAIRS ON HIS LEGS? BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY!
WHAT?
IF YOU PULL IN THE DIRECTION OF THE HAIRS, IT WON'T HURT
THUD!
GEEE
NOO, HELP!

WHAT'S THIS? DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T WASHED YOUR HAIR!
NO, I HAVE!
SCRATCH!
IF I DO IT, YOU WON'T FEEL A THING, TRUST ME...
NO, I'D RATHER TAKE IT OFF MYSELF
SEE, I DISTRACTED YOU AND YOU DIDN'T FEEL A THING.
ROLL
ROLL
WOOOAH!!
H
HA
HAHA
HA
HAHAHA
BE CAREFUL!
YOU'RE GONNA DAMAGE THE LIBRARY'S BOOK!



マルセイユのうえをタイ
前の暑さがおおっていた。

"A SUFFOCATING HEAT WAVE WAS ENVELOPING MARSEILLES."



足が痛んでいた。
くちびるはたばこ
熱でかわいて燃え
ように熱かった。

"...HIS FEET HURT DEHYDRATED BY CIGARETTES AND THE FEVER, HIS LIPS WERE BURNING."

...DEHYDRATED BY CIGARETTES AND THE FEVER,..."

さ、家へお帰り
今すぐに!
"GO BACK HOME, QUICKLY!"
守が戸をしめに来た。
ジャックは折檻ひとつ
せず、ひざまずきも
せず、まるで盗人
といったように
逃げだした。
"THE SACRISTAN CAME TO CLOSE THE DOORS JACQUES FLED LIKE A THIEF, WITHOUT PRAYING A WORD, WITHOUT KNEELING DOWN."
"...HE SLIPPED AND FELL OVER BETWEEN CASES THAT SMELT OF DAMP WOOD THEN SLEEP TOOK HIM."

Thank you
"HOW NICE OF YOU..."
POP!
CLINK
CLUNK
"AH, IF ONLY YOU KNEW ALL THE THINGS THAT HAVE CHANGED IN ME WITHIN THIS YEAR IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT..."
"...TO HAVE ACCOMPANIED YOUR BROTHER."
"...I'M GOING TO CALL JEUNY..."
"...THOSE WHO ARE BORN IN THIS FAMILY ARE SPECIAL PEOPLE..."
"...ARMED WITH A STRENGTH THAT OTHERS DON'T HAVE," AN ELLIPSIS

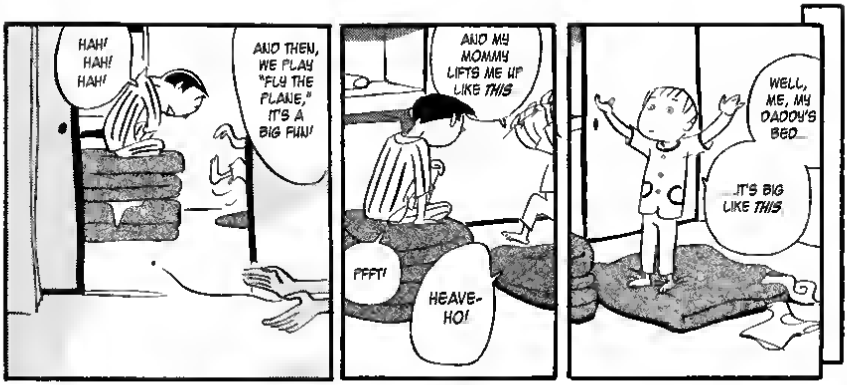
"THE THIBAULTS."
ROGER MARTIN DU GARD
IT'S NOT THE SAME ONE, I'M READING VOLUME TWO NOW
HOW COME YOU'RE ALWAYS READING THIS YELLOW BOOK?
FIVE
HOW MANY VOLUMES ARE THERE?
WOW!
IN FRONSH
WHERE DOES THE STORY TAKE PLACE?
MICHIKO, HERE, THIS IS YOURS. THANKS
GOSH, SORRY
YOU DROPPED SOME RICE GRAINS THERE
WHAT!? ISN'T THAT HER METER RULE?
YOU SEW, GORO!?
NOT AT ALL. IT WAS FOR PHYSICS
YEAH, IT'S FINE!
FUD FUD FUD
WELL
ARE THEY GONE?

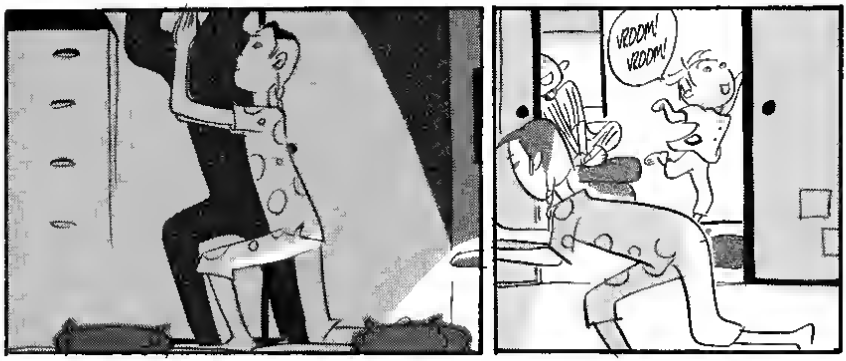
REALLY? THEY LOOK LIKE CRABS
COME ON, MRS TAI, IF WE TELL YOU THEY ARE TULIPS!
TULIPS, IT'S A ROW OF TULIPS
IT'S NOT URGENT
YOU CAN DO IT AFTER YOUR HOME-WORK
ALL RIGHT
THREE STITCHES FORWARD, AND THREE BACKWARD
SHE'S MUCH MORE EFFI-CIENT THAN ME, THEN
I ALREADY LEARNED TO USE PUNCH CARDS IN JUNIOR HIGH
TAK TAK TAK TAK
OH MY!
MICHIKO HELPS ME OUT A LOT THANKS TO HER, I WAS ABLE TO SUPPLY THREE SWEATERS THIS MONTH

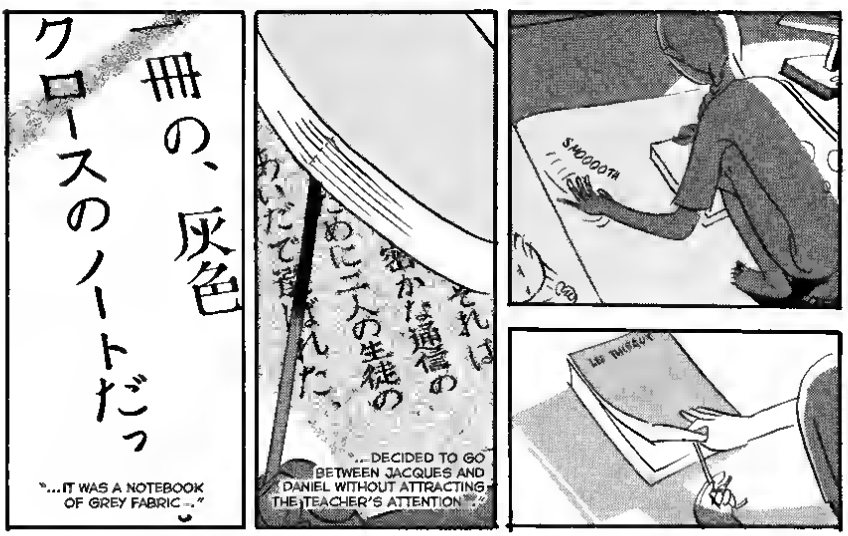
PITY, I THOUGHT I'D KEEP THE MONEY TO MY-SELF
PAT
YOUR MOTHER WILL PAY YOU FOR EACH FINISHED PIECE
EVEN IN SCHOOL, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE SIMPLY BETTER THAN OTHERS, RIGHT?
...OKUBO'S KNITTING CATALOGUE!
I BROUGHT IT..
MRS TAI! MRS TAI!
PFFFT!
BUT THESE MODELS HERE CAN'T BE MADE WITH MICHIKO'S KNITTING LOOM
THEY COME OUT OF THE FACTORY
DO YOU WEAR THESE UNDER YOUR CLOTHING?
YES, OKUBO SPECIALIZES IN UNDER-CLOTHES

Chapter 2

Communication


HAH! HAH! HAH!
AND THEN, WE PLAY "FLY THE PLANE," IT'S A BIG FUN!
AND MY MOMMY LIFTS ME UP LIKE THIS
PFFT!
HEAVE-HO!
WELL, ME, MY DADDY'S BED...
...IT'S BIG LIKE THIS


VROOM! VROOM!


一冊の、灰色
クロースのノートだっ
"...IT WAS A NOTEBOOK OF GREY FABRIC..."
それは密かな通信の
ために二人の生徒の
あいだで交換された。
"... DECIDED TO GO BETWEEN JACQUES AND DANIEL WITHOUT ATTRACTING THE TEACHER'S ATTENTION."
SMOOOTH
LES TWISTS

友よ！

"MY FRIEND!"

"IS YOUR STATE OF MIND INDIFFERENCE, LUST, OR LOVE? --J."

きみの精神状態は、惰眠か、肉欲か、愛情か、いったいどれにおちいっているのだ。

J.より

友よ！

"YOU'RE SUFFERING, MY FRIEND!"

君を苦しめるものは何だ！

--ロ.

"...OF THE TORMENT THAT OVERWHELMS YOUR SOUL? --D."

今日、ぼくは学校で先生に誉められた。だけど君にわかるかしら。ぼくはそのことを恥かしいと思ったんだ。誉められたことを恥かしいって？ぼくは何よりも番判を気にしてるんだ！

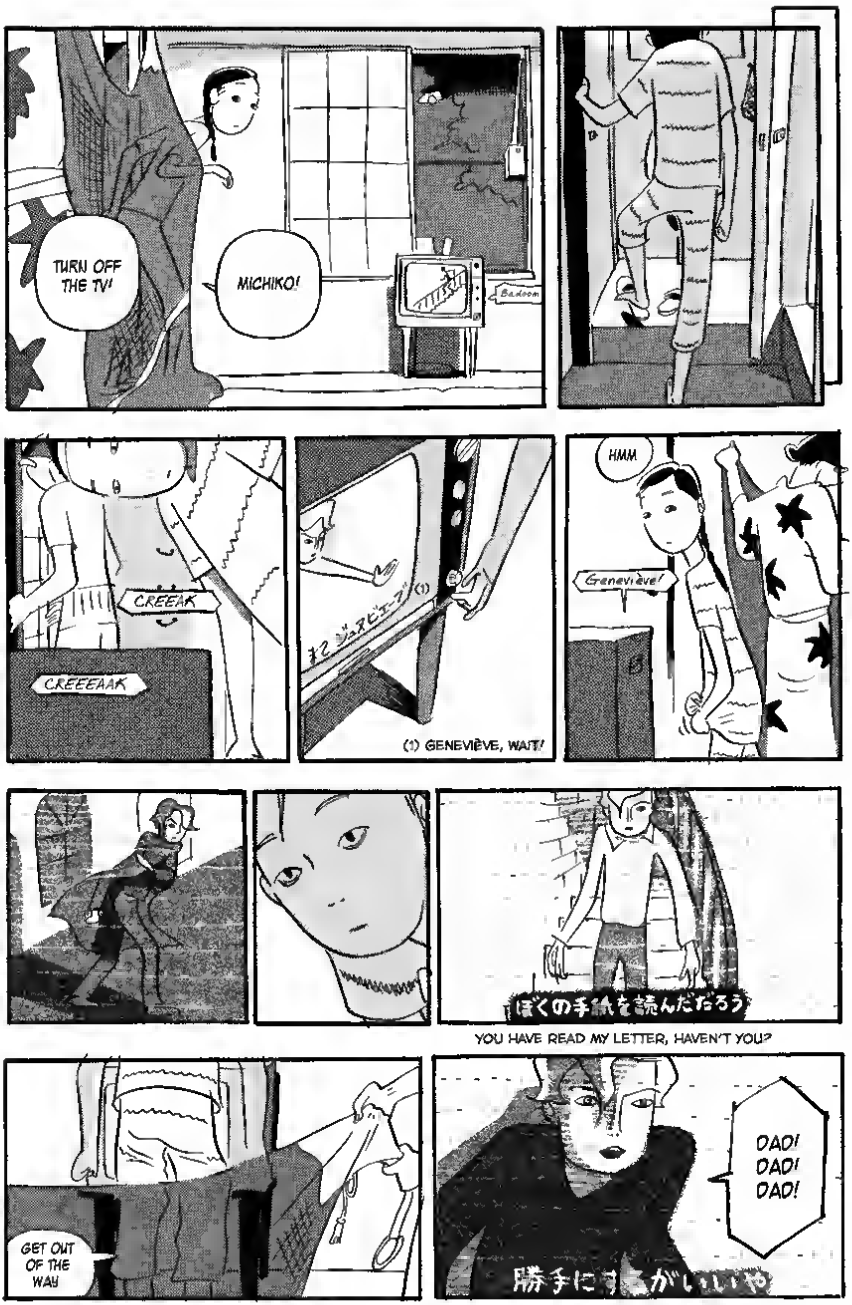
"LIKE THOSE WHO CONGRATULATE ME ON MY ADMISSION. I AM REALLY ASHAMED OF IT, YES, ASHAMED! NOT ONLY TO HAVE ACCEPTED THEIR... THE JUDGEMENT OF ALL THESE.. "

"FORGET ME! DON'T WRITE TO ME ANYMORE, OR RATHER, DO! WRITE TO ME!"

"FAREWELL, I SENSE FEVER, MY TEMPLES HURT, MY EYES ARE BLURRY!"

"AH, HOW AWFUL TO HAVE ALL THESE ASPIRATIONS WITHOUT AN OUTLET!"

"YOURS FOR LIFE. --J."
"YOURS FOR LIFE --J."


TURN OFF THE TV!
MICHIKO!
Badoon
CREEAK
CREEEAAK
(1) GENEVIÈVE, WAIT!
HMM
Geneviève!
ぼくの手紙を読んだだろう
YOU HAVE READ MY LETTER, HAVEN'T YOU?
GET OUT OF THE WAY
DAD! DAD! DAD!
勝手にするがいいや
DO AS YOU WISH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TO PREVENT THE PAGES FROM OPENING
クリップがとめてあるのはなぜ
I'M READING A NOVEL
WHY THE PAPERCLIP?
AND THIS, THIS IS A PEN-HOLDER
IT'S A GIFT FROM A GIRLFRIEND OF MINE
THIS IS MY DESK LAMP
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T HAVE THIS KIND OF THING BACK IN YOUR TIMES, HUH?
YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN FROM JUST READING THE CONTENTS PAGE OF THE BOOK, THAT'S WHY
THE TWO OF US SHARE THE SAME IDEAS, DON'T YOU THINK?
YES.
YOU KNOW, JACQUES, I'VE KNOWN FOR A WHILE THAT WE COULD BE FRIENDS, YOU AND I

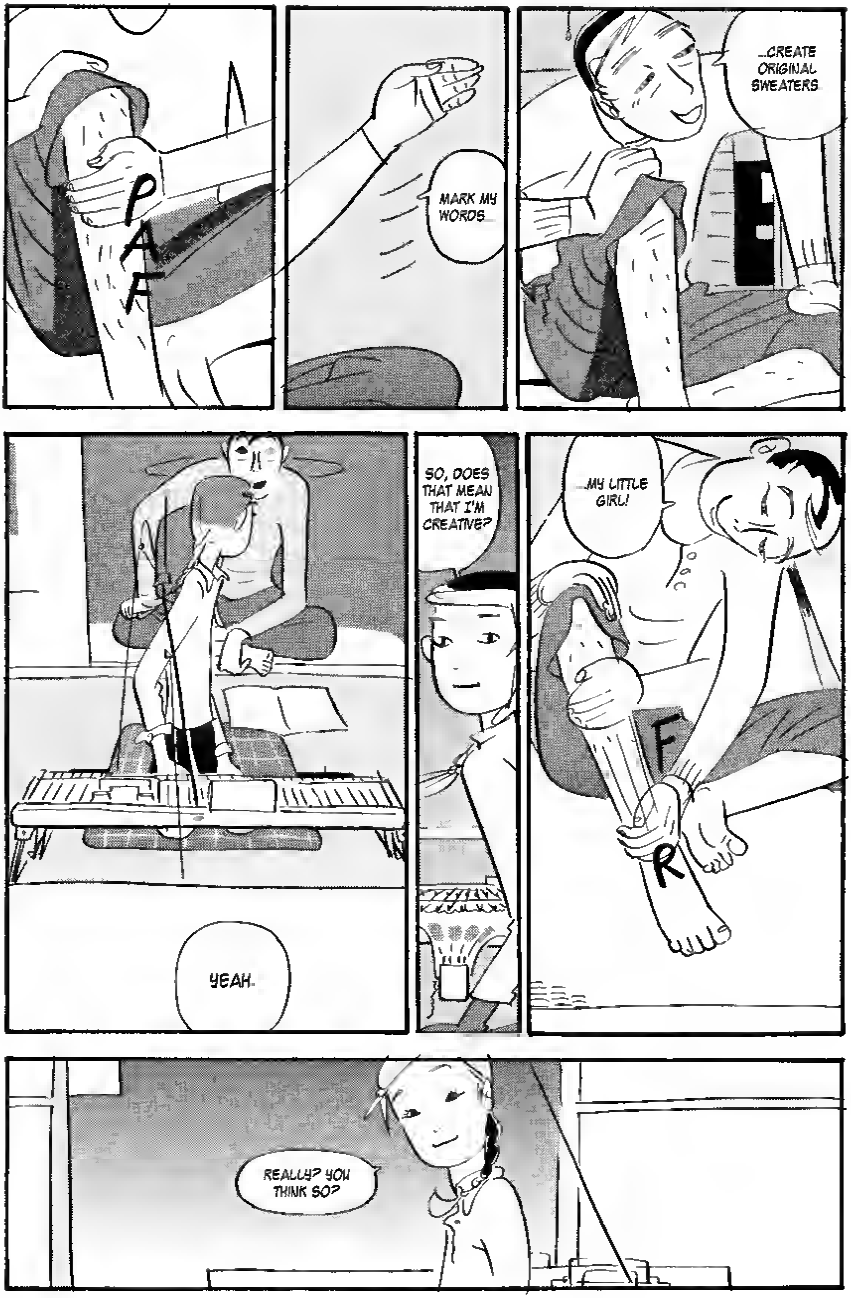
王政復古の
城壁の東、菩提
にかこまれた小
別荘郡。パリの
メーゾン・ラフィット
と呼び、
"... VILLA BOUGHT DURING THE RESTORATION... ON THE NORTH-EASTERN SIDE OF THE CASTLE... AVENUE OF TWO-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD LIME TREES ... MAISONS-LAFFITTE..."
RIGHT, THE POTATOES
白い戸。盤
咲きみ
る庭。
"A SMALL WHITE DOOR... CENTRE OCCUPIED BY A ROUND FOUNTAIN... GARDEN OF BLOOMING LILACS"
CUT THE SPINACH
CUT
YOU SLICE THEM
...IN THIN STRIPS
CHAK
YOU WASH AND DRAIN THE LOT
A LITTLE MORE
IT'S IMPORTANT IN LIFE TO KNOW HOW TO COOK
HMM
YOU BETTER LEARN THIS RECIPE NOW OR ELSE PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU IN THE FUTURE

"JACQUES, WILL YOU PLAY TENNIS AT MAISONS-LAFFITTE?"
YES, MOST PROBA-BLY
"JENNY, WILL YOU BE COMING TO MAISONS-LAFFITTE TOMORROW?"
APPLE
MOM, I'M DONE!
OK!
CAN I GO?
AND WHEN IT'S DONE...
FLUSH
GO TO MAISONS-LAFFITTE!
GO! GO!

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
THERE'S LOTS OF BOOKS HERE.
LULU! COME HERE!
YES.
MICHIKO AND KINEO READ THEM ALL, YOU KNOW.
OOH, THERE SURE IS

NEXT PAGE!
"MOKKO THE LITTLE SQUIRREL"
"ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE LIVED A FAMILY OF SQUIRRELS IN THE FOREST"
WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?
UNCLE WILL READ IT TO YOU
UNCLE, LOOK!
THERE'S A CROSS, THERE!
THERE WAS A MISTAKE IN THE BOOK, SO...
I CORRECTED IT
SHLOK
NO..
..IT WAS ME
SHLAK
DID MICHIKO DO IT?
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

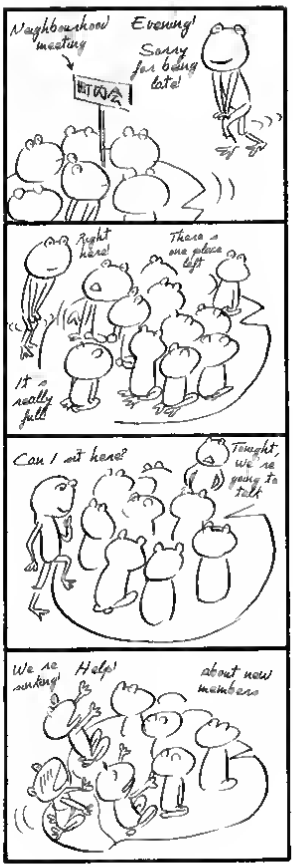
SHLOK
KINEO, WHAT'S YOUR BOOK ABOUT?
HUH? PIRATES
SHLAK
AH, THERE WAS A TYPO?
"I'M ASHAMED OF IT, YES ASHAMED..."
WELL, IT'S NOTHING UNUSUAL
"LIKE THOSE WHO CONGRATULATE ME."
THERE MUST NOT BE MANY GIRLS YOUR AGE WHO KNOW HOW TO USE THAT KIND OF MACHINE
YOU COULD ALWAYS...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'LL DO WHEN YOU GROW UP BUT...


PAF
MARK MY WORDS...
...CREATE ORIGINAL SWEATERS
SO, DOES THAT MEAN THAT I'M CREATIVE?
...MY LITTLE GIRL!
FR
YEAH.
REALLY? YOU THINK SO?

LALA WEARS A BLACK CAPE NOW?
OH...
KLIK KLAK KLIK KLAK KLIK KLAK
KLAK KLIK KLAK KLIK
WHEN IT'S NOT THE KNITTING LOOM, IT'S THE SEWING MACHINE!
IF YOU CAN SEW THIS, YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE A DECENT DRESS FOR YOURSELF.
INSTEAD OF BEING ALWAYS SO SLOPPY.
ME, I'M SWISS!
YOU'RE ASIAN, RIGHT?
HULLOOO! I COME FROM EUROPE!

Chapter 3

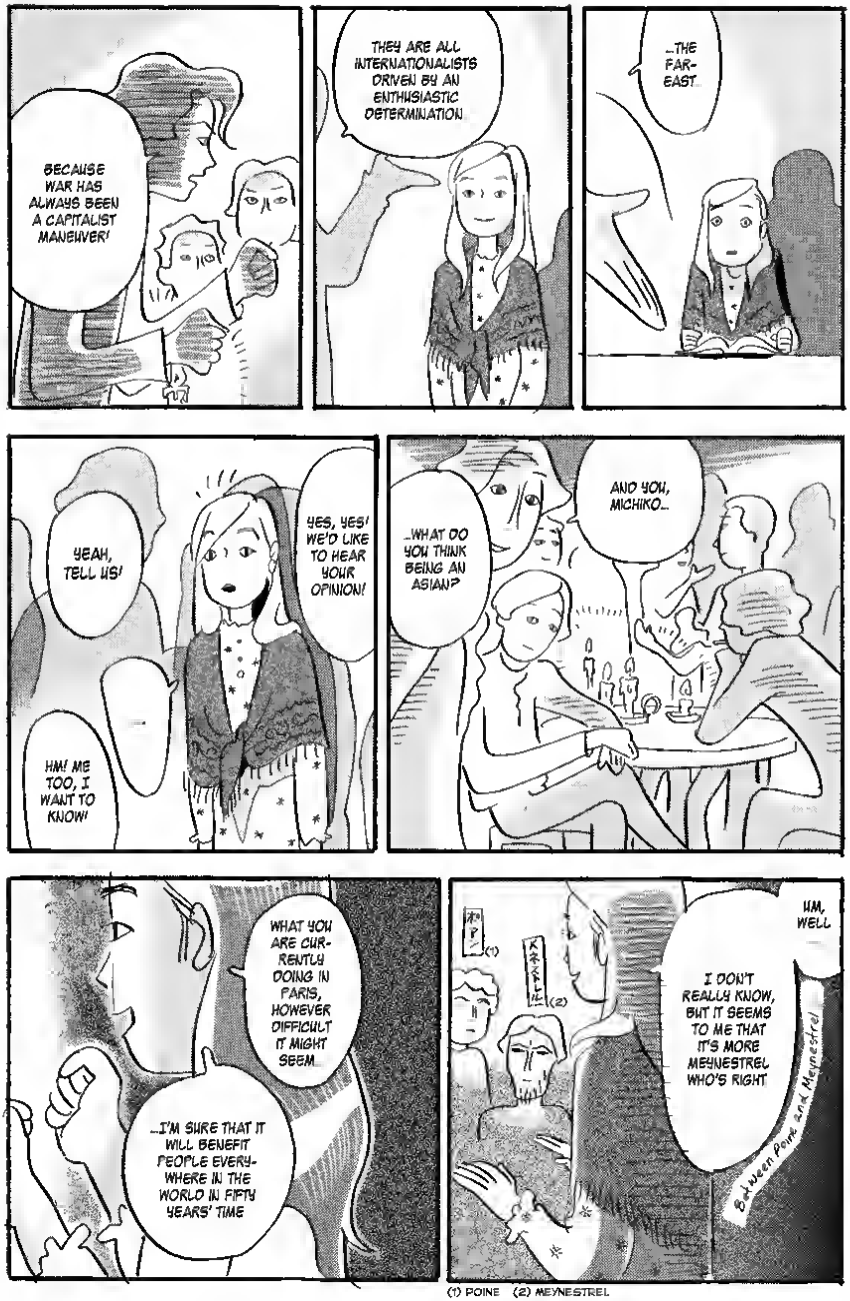
The Meeting



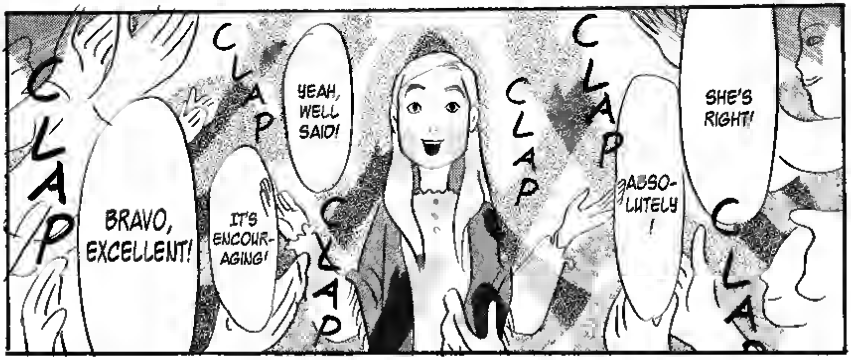
SHE WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE SHE SAW HER MOMMY
TOK
COULD YOU GO FIND YOUR COUSIN'S PAJAMAS?
MICHIKO!
SORRY FOR THIS KINEO!
KINEO, YOU SLEEP IN THIS ROOM...
...AND YOUR AUNT HERE, OKAY?
THERE, THERE, DON'T WAKE UP, SWEETHEART
YOU'VE GROWN REALLY HEAVY, MY LILY!
PHEEW, SHE'S SO HEAVY!

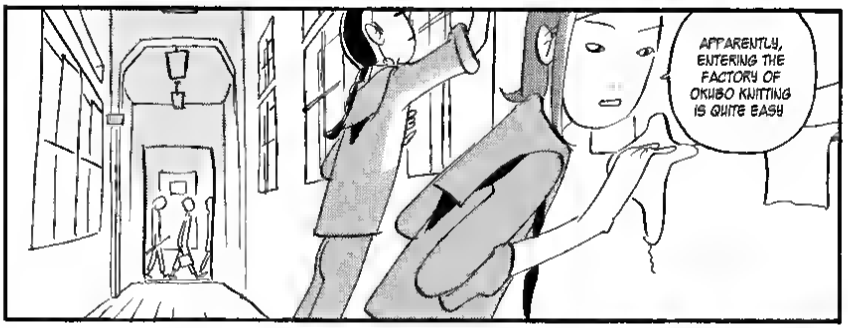
cla.k!
OH!
AUNTIE, HERE ARE LULU'S PAJAMAS
AH, THANKS
YOU'RE WEARING A NIGHT-GOWN?
SHE WENT OUT TO BUY CLOTHES AND CAME BACK WITH THAT
GOOD NIGHT, AUNTIE!
ARE YOU GONNA DO YOUR HOME-WORK NOW?
ACTUALLY, SHE SPENDS HER TIME READING
SHE'S STUDYING HARD, HUH?
It looks good on you!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S THINKING

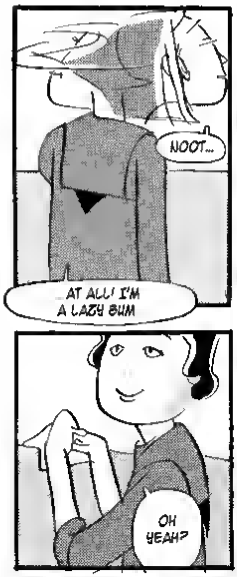
"...AN UNFINISHED PORTRAIT... IN A FURNISHED HOUSE IN GENEVA... THE STEAMING POT OF CHOCOLATE... WHAT ORGANISATION?" ASKED MEYNESTREL...
"...THAT THERE ARE MILLIONS OF WORKERS ORGANIZED TOGETHER IN THE WORLD..."
INDEED
"...THE QUESTION IS NOT ABOUT WHETHER IT'S RIGHT OR... THOUGHT... CAPABLE OF RESISTANCE...
HMM
"...AS YOU KNOW, THOSE WHO... GATHERED HERE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD..."
"BELGIUM, ITALY, AUSTRIA"
"AND EVEN..."
"... IS A SECTARIAN..." JACQUES CONTINUED...
I THINK SO TOO


BECAUSE WAR HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CAPITALIST MANEUVER!
THEY ARE ALL INTERNATIONALISTS DRIVEN BY AN ENTHUSIASTIC DETERMINATION
...THE FAR-EAST
YEAH, TELL US!
YES, YES! WE'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINION!
HM! ME TOO, I WANT TO KNOW!
AND YOU, MICHIKO...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK BEING AN ASIAN?
WHAT YOU ARE CURRENTLY DOING IN PARIS, HOWEVER DIFFICULT IT MIGHT SEEM...
...I'M SURE THAT IT WILL BENEFIT PEOPLE EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD IN FIFTY YEARS' TIME
(1)
(2)
HM, WELL
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT'S MORE MEYNESTREL WHO'S RIGHT
Between Poine and Meynestrel

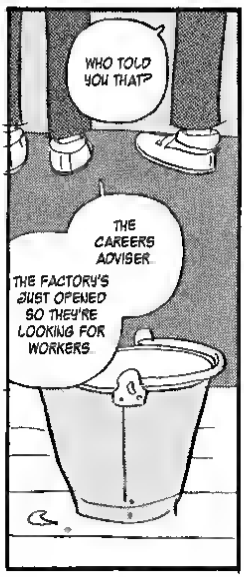
(1) POINE (2) MEYNESTREL


CLAP
BRAVO, EXCELLENT!
CLAP
IT'S ENCOURAGING!
YEAH, WELL SAID!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
ABSOLUTELY!
SHE'S RIGHT!
CLAP


APPARENTLY, ENTERING THE FACTORY OF OKUBO KNITTING IS QUITE EASY

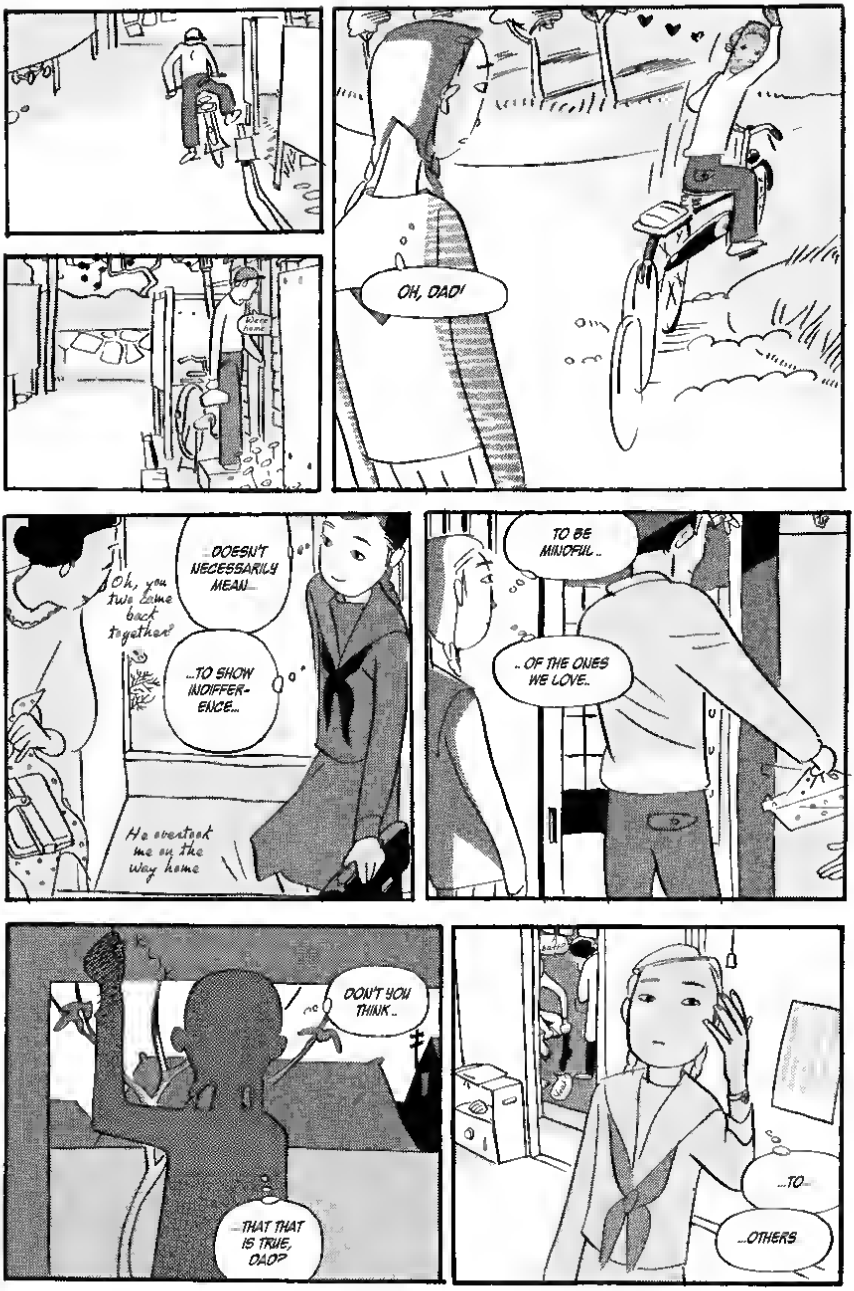

NOOT...
...AT ALL! I'M A LAZY BUM
OH YEAH?

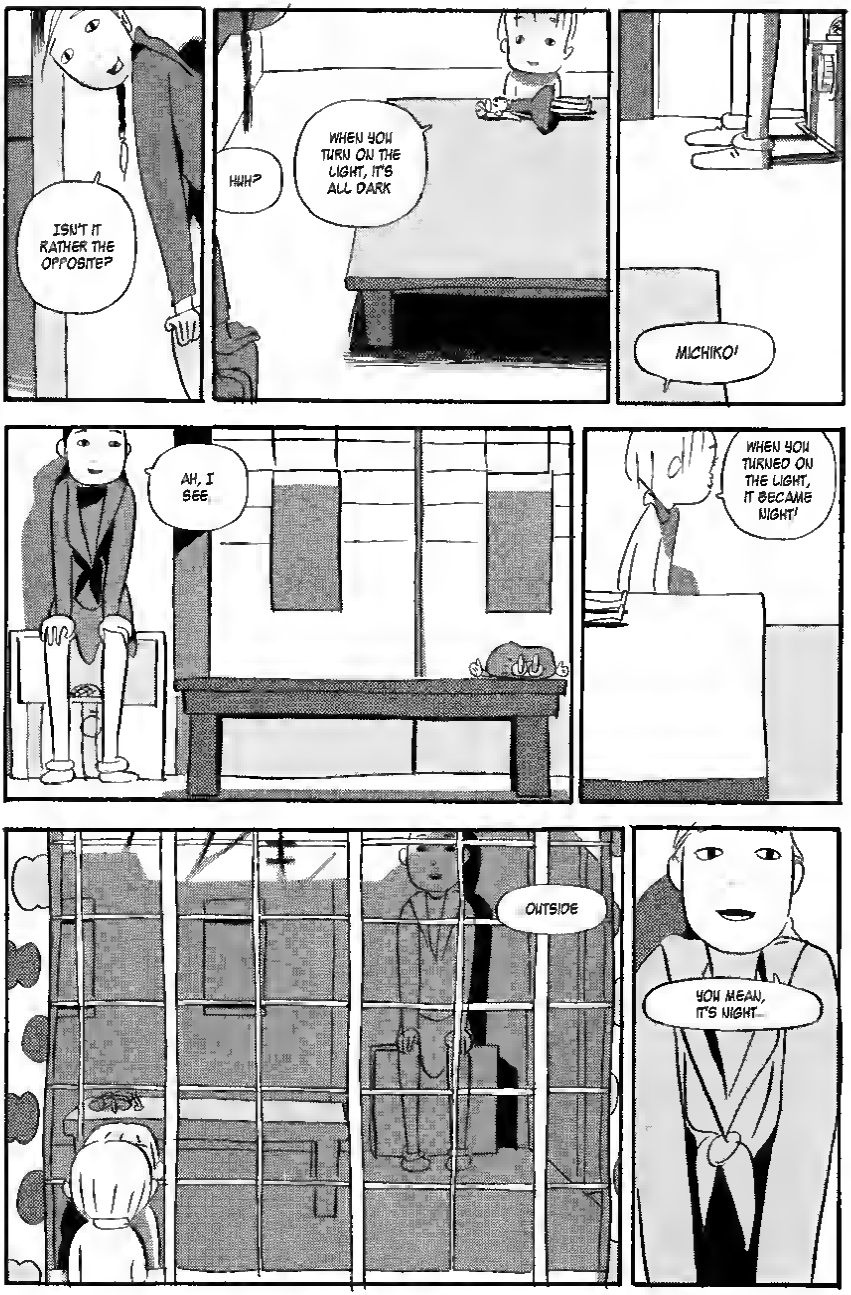
BUT YOU'RE A HARD WORKER
ME? NAAAAAAAH!


WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
THE CAREERS ADVISER
THE FACTORY'S JUST OPENED SO THEY'RE LOOKING FOR WORKERS

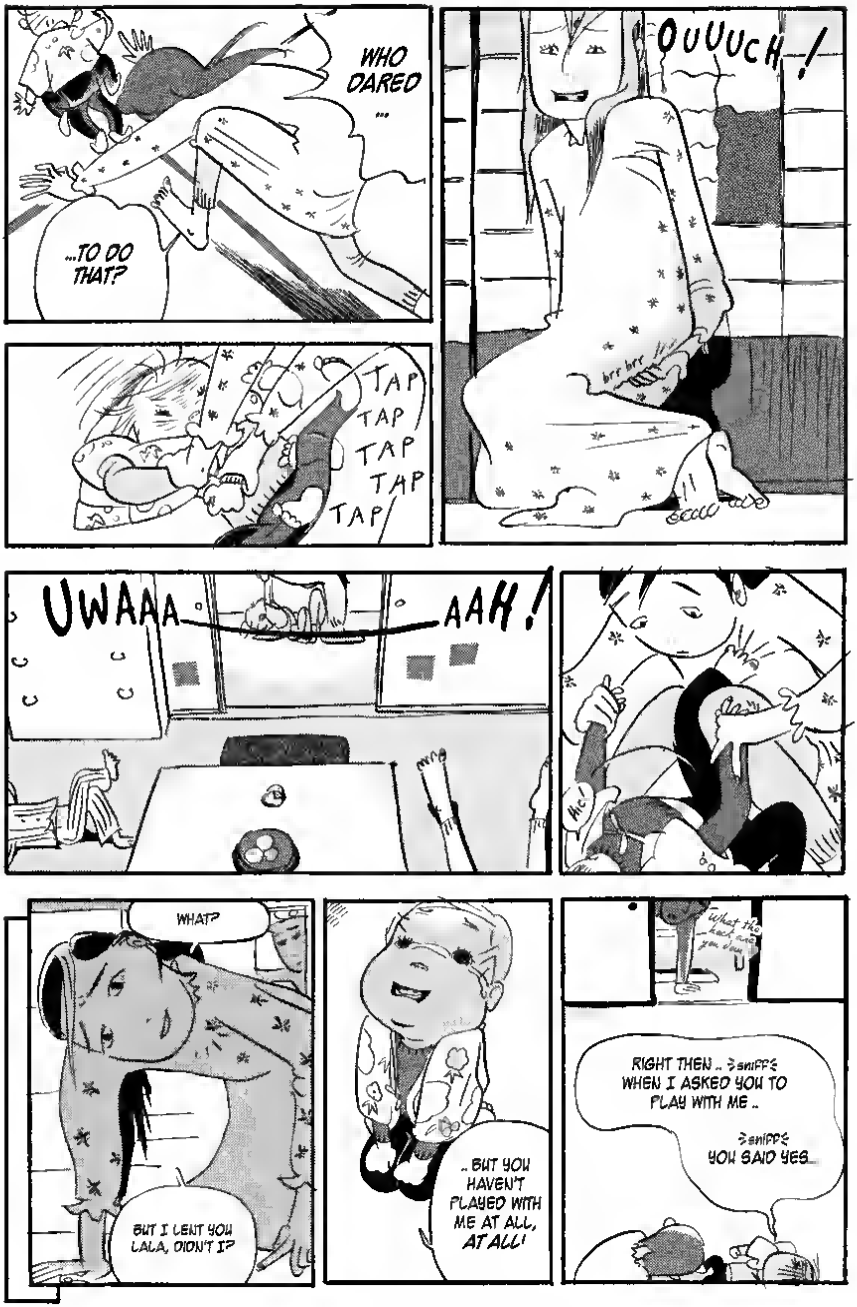
OH, SORRY, SORRY, I MISTOOK YOU FOR SOMEONE ELSE!
THE LACK OF REVOLTING ACTION.
WHY?
THOUGHT DEFICIENCY.
WELL, JACQUES, YOU SEE...
WHAT 'BOUT YOU, MICHIKO?
MICHIKO!
THE INTERNATIONALIST IDEAL...
...IMPLIES, FIRST OF ALL, THE SUSPENSION OF THE IDEA OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS.
IS IT NECESSARY? IS IT FATAL?
Weak!
Wait a sec'!
You get a praying mantis on your neck!
Get it off me, quick!
Is it gone?
Millet's Angelus!

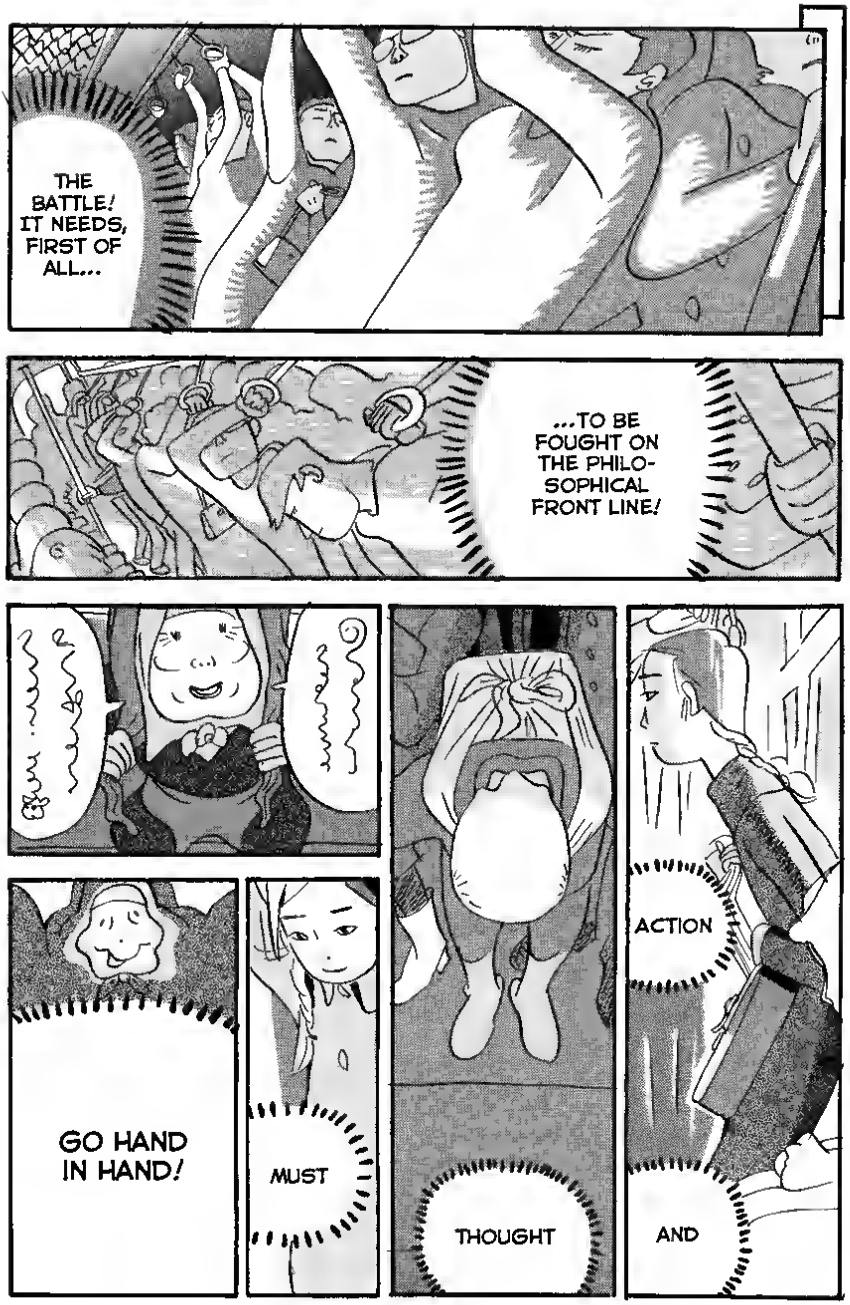
MILLET'S ANGELUS: FAMOUS OIL PAINTING BY JEAN FRANÇOIS MILLET (1814-1875)

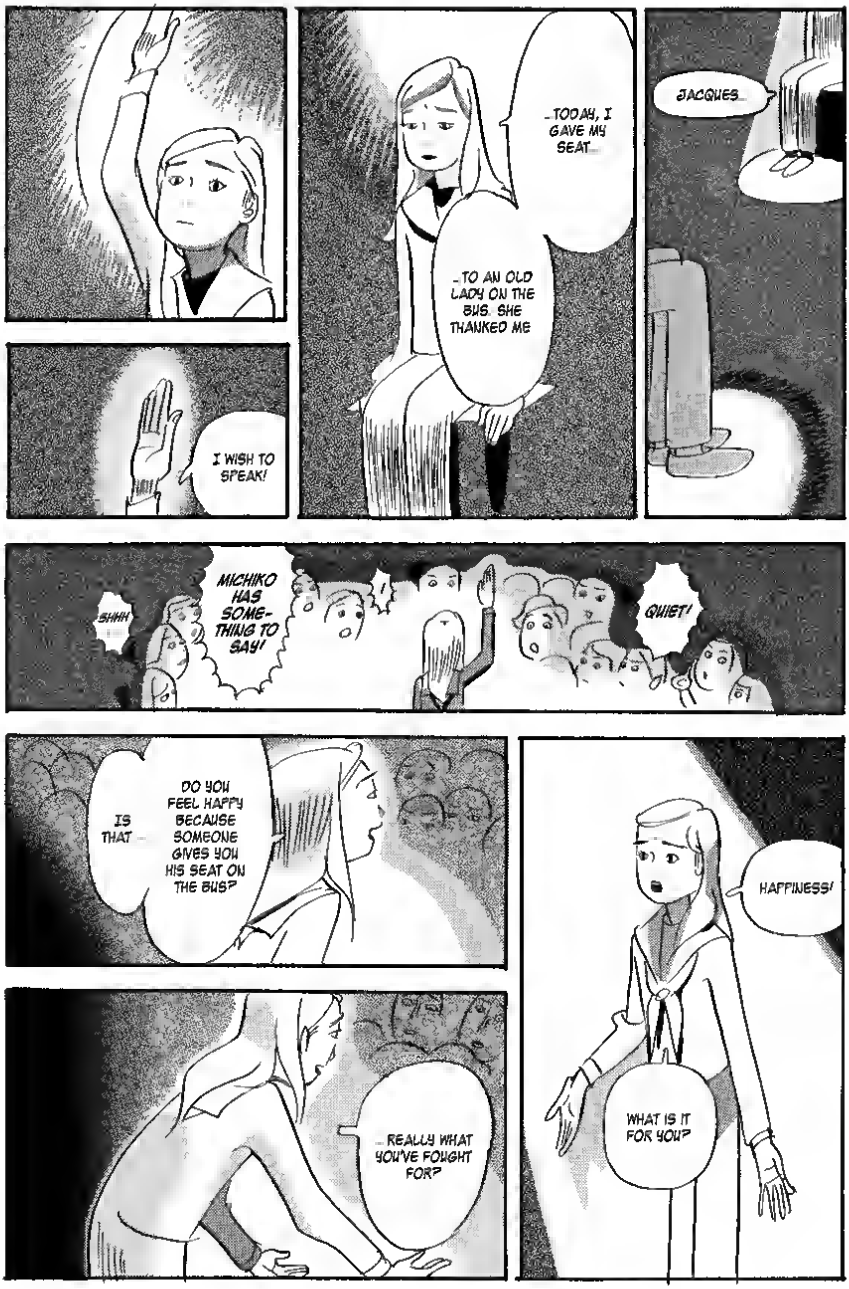

OH, DAD!
Oh, you two came back together?
DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN...
...TO SHOW INDIFFERENCE...
He overtook me on the way home
TO BE MINDFUL..
..OF THE ONES WE LOVE..
DON'T YOU THINK..
...THAT THAT IS TRUE, DAD?
...TO...
...OTHERS


ISN'T IT RATHER THE OPPOSITE?
HUH?
WHEN YOU TURN ON THE LIGHT, IT'S ALL DARK
MICHIKO!
AH, I SEE
WHEN YOU TURNED ON THE LIGHT, IT BECAME NIGHT!
OUTSIDE
YOU MEAN, IT'S NIGHT...

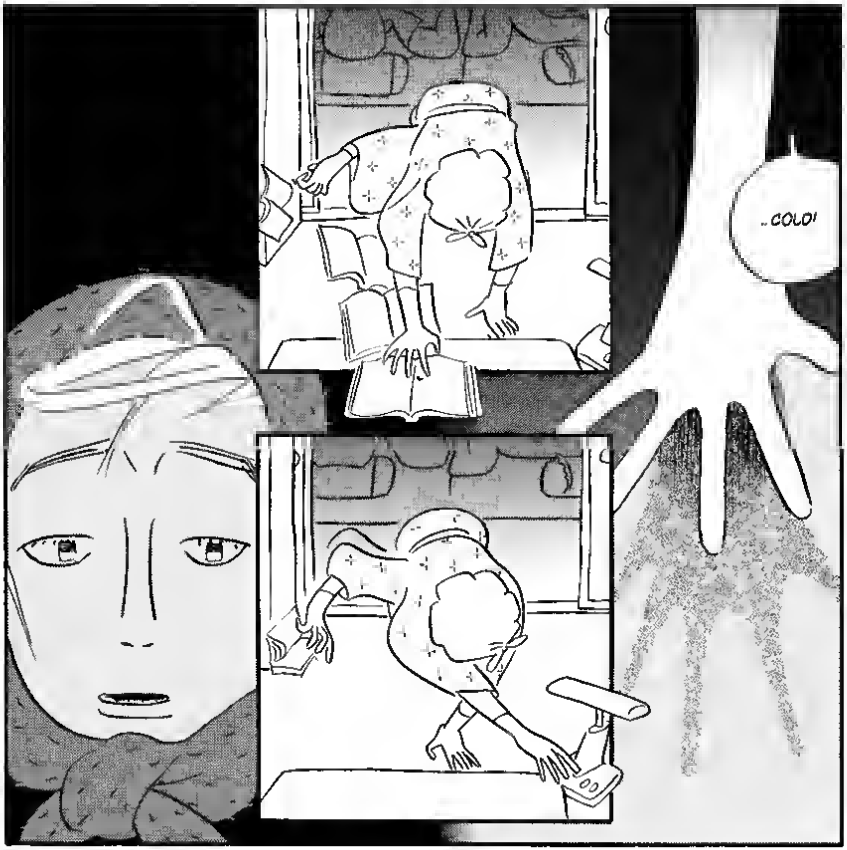
...CHILDREN, IT'S BED-TIME!
ALRIGHT.
TURN OFF THE TV.
POKE
POKE
COME ON, KINEO!
STOMP!

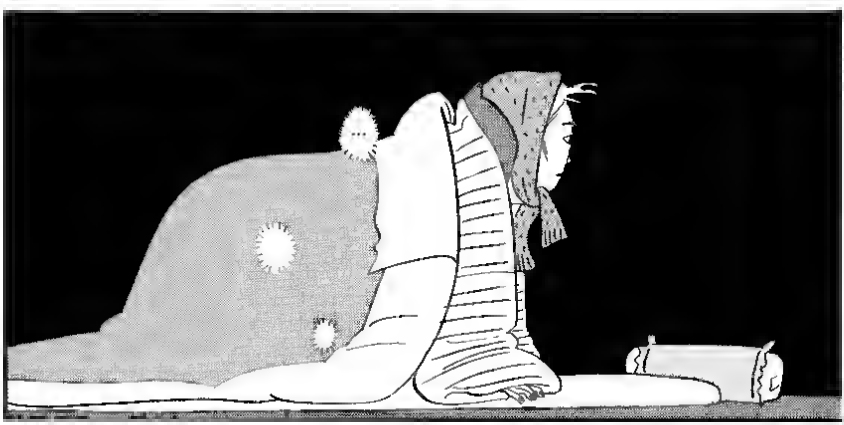

WHO DARED ...
...TO DO THAT?
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
OUUUCH!
brr brr
UWAAA
AAH!
Hic!
WHAT?
BUT I LENT YOU LALA, DIDN'T I?
..BUT YOU HAVEN'T PLAYED WITH ME AT ALL, AT ALL!
RIGHT THEN .. ;sniff; WHEN I ASKED YOU TO PLAY WITH ME ..
;sniff; YOU SAID YES..

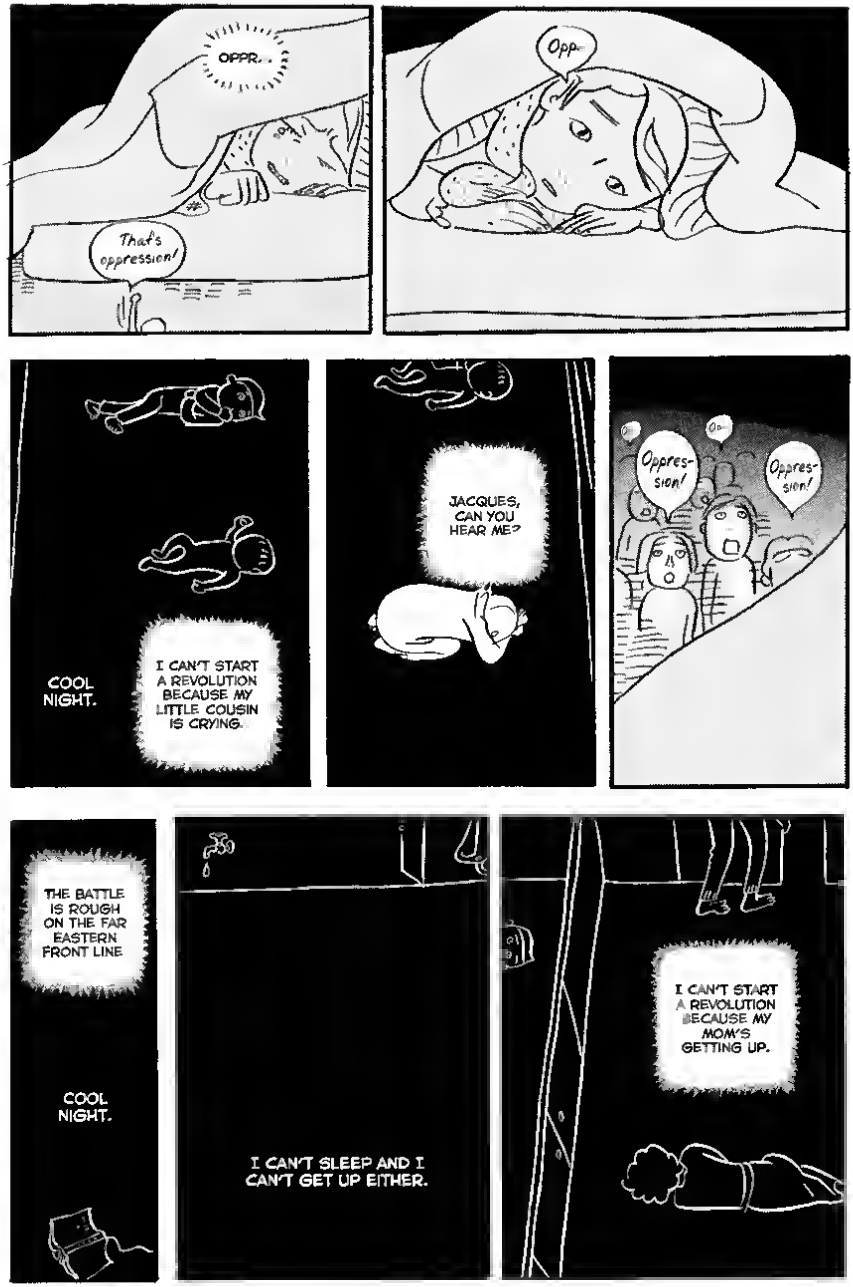

THE BATTLE! IT NEEDS, FIRST OF ALL...
...TO BE FOUGHT ON THE PHILO-SOPHICAL FRONT LINE!
GO HAND IN HAND!
MUST
THOUGHT
AND
ACTION


I WISH TO SPEAK!
...TODAY, I GAVE MY SEAT...
...TO AN OLD LADY ON THE BUS. SHE THANKED ME
JACQUES...
SHHH!
MICHIKO HAS SOME-THING TO SAY!
QUIET!
IS THAT...
DO YOU FEEL HAPPY BECAUSE SOMEONE GIVES YOU HIS SEAT ON THE BUS?
...REALLY WHAT YOU'VE FOUGHT FOR?
HAPPINESS!
WHAT IS IT FOR YOU?

Revolution is not about making little old ladies happy!
I should've remained standing from the beginning! Yes, standing!
No, no!
WE MUST...
...RESIST AT WHATEVER PRICE!
REFUSAL!
SILENCE!
LISTEN UP!
OBJECTION!
UNION IN RESIS-TANCE!
LISTEN UP!
LISTEN UP!
LET'S REMAIN UNITED!
..OOOLOO
COO
..YOU'RE GOING
TO CATCH
A
I TELL YOU THAT


..COLO!



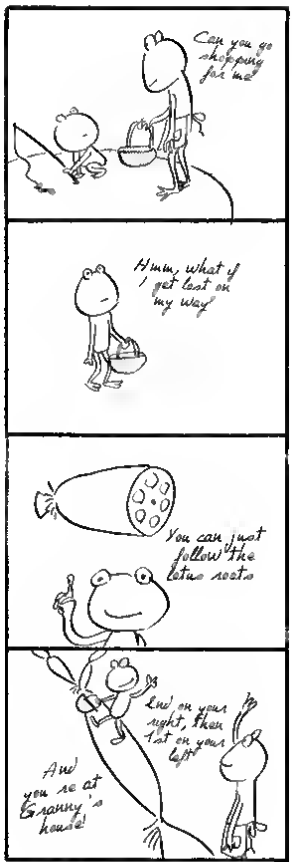

OPPR-
That's oppression!
Opp-
COOL NIGHT.
I CAN'T START A REVOLUTION BECAUSE MY LITTLE COUSIN IS CRYING.
JACQUES, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
Oppres-sion!
Oppres-sion!
THE BATTLE IS ROUGH ON THE FAR EASTERN FRONT LINE
COOL NIGHT.
I CAN'T SLEEP AND I CAN'T GET UP EITHER.
I CAN'T START A REVOLUTION BECAUSE MY MOM'S GETTING UP.

YES, YOU ARE TOO PROUD
...IS THAT I'M TOO PROUD
WHAT IT IS...
THAT'S WHAT YOU USED TO SAY, DIDN'T YOU?
AH!
(1) "THOSE WHO TRULY WANT TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING NEED HATE."
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, TAKE TIME TO RE-READ YOUR PAPERS
...WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR BOOK?
I DON'T KNOW I FORGOT TO PUT THE BOOKMARK LAST TIME
HEY MICHIKO...
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU STILL FIND TIME TO READ NOVELS!
YOU'RE REALLY COOL ABOUT THE EXAMS

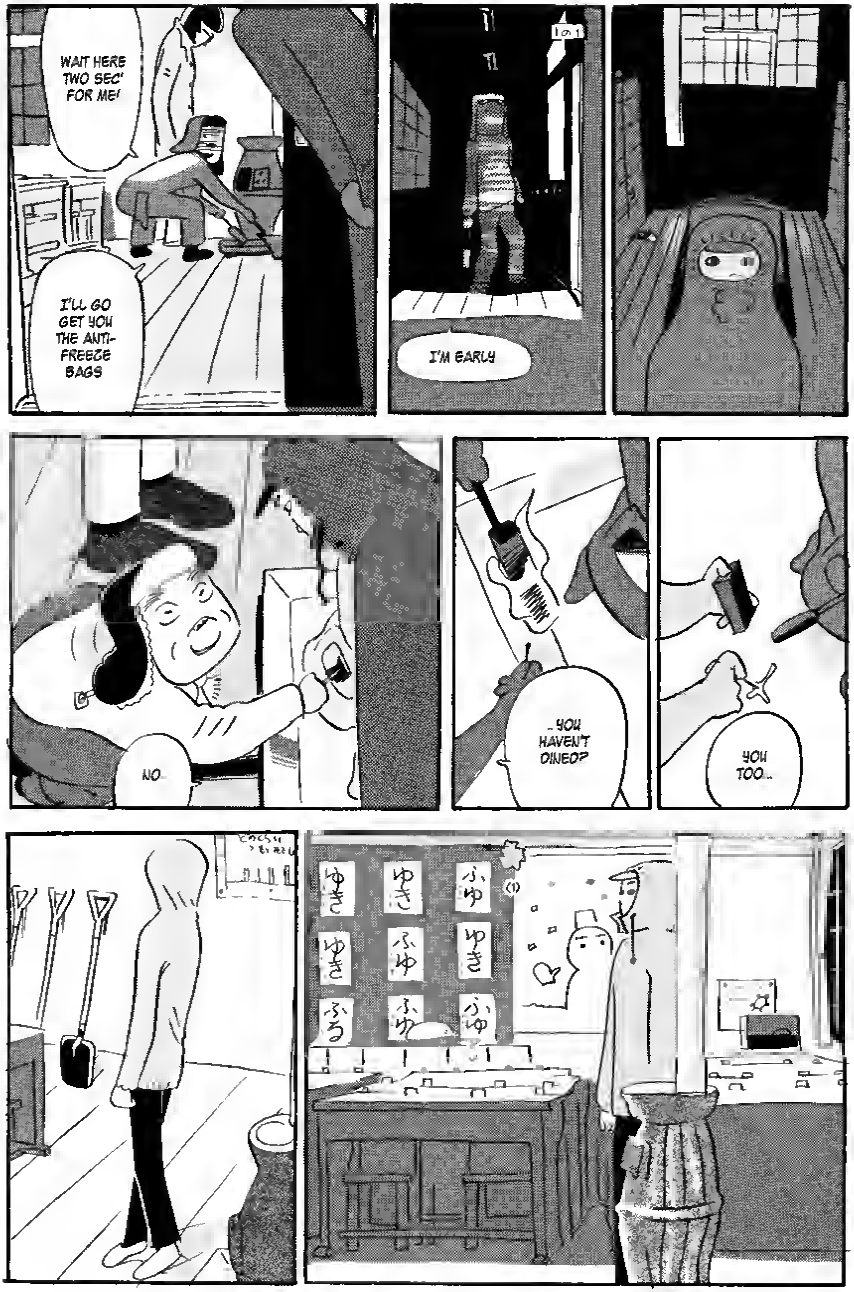
THAT'S A FUNNY WAY TO READ A BOOK!
...AND THEN, THREE DAYS LATER, I REALIZE THAT I'VE ALREADY READ THE CHAPTER!
I THINK IT WAS SOMEWHERE HERE YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES, I JUST START AGAIN RANDOMLY...
If it continues like this, you will even find the cream for Okubo knitting
Michiko Tai
Can do better
"...WE LACK SHOVELS AND WOULD LIKE TO BORROW YOURS."
"TO CLEAR THE SCHOOL ROOF OF THE LARGE QUANTITY OF SNOW THAT HAS BEEN FALLING LATELY..."
"TO ALL THE STUDENTS' FAMILIES..."

Chapter 4

The Procession


Can you go shopping for me?
Hmm, what if I get lost on my way?
You can just follow the lotus roots
And on your right, then left on your left
And you're at Granny's house!
The "ne" in kineo means roots (of lotus)

COULD YOU GO THERE?
WE NEED TO GET THE SHOVEL FROM SCHOOL
AT FIVE O'CLOCK
AND THE ANTI-FREEZE TOO
BZZZ!
IF YOU WANT
KZZZZZ
BE CAREFUL!
KLINK
KLINK

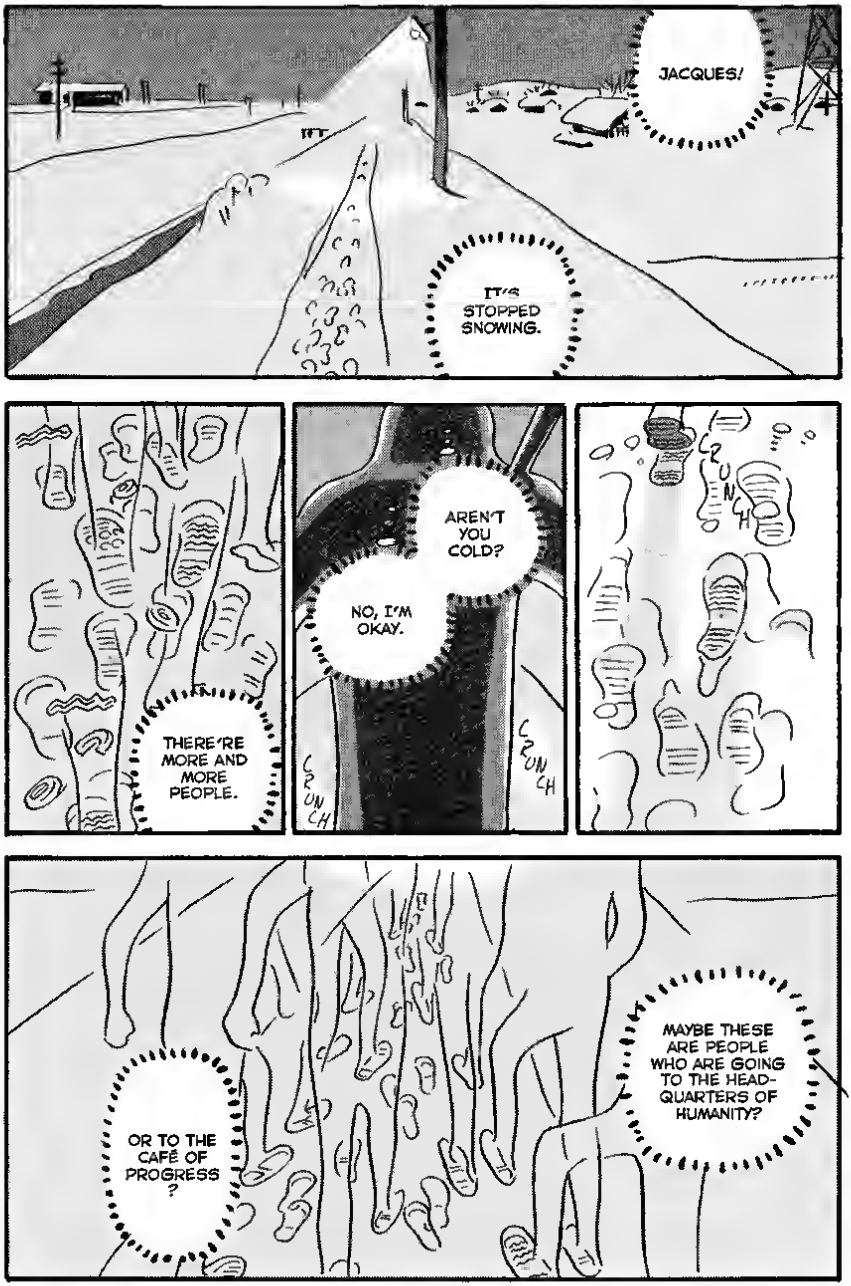


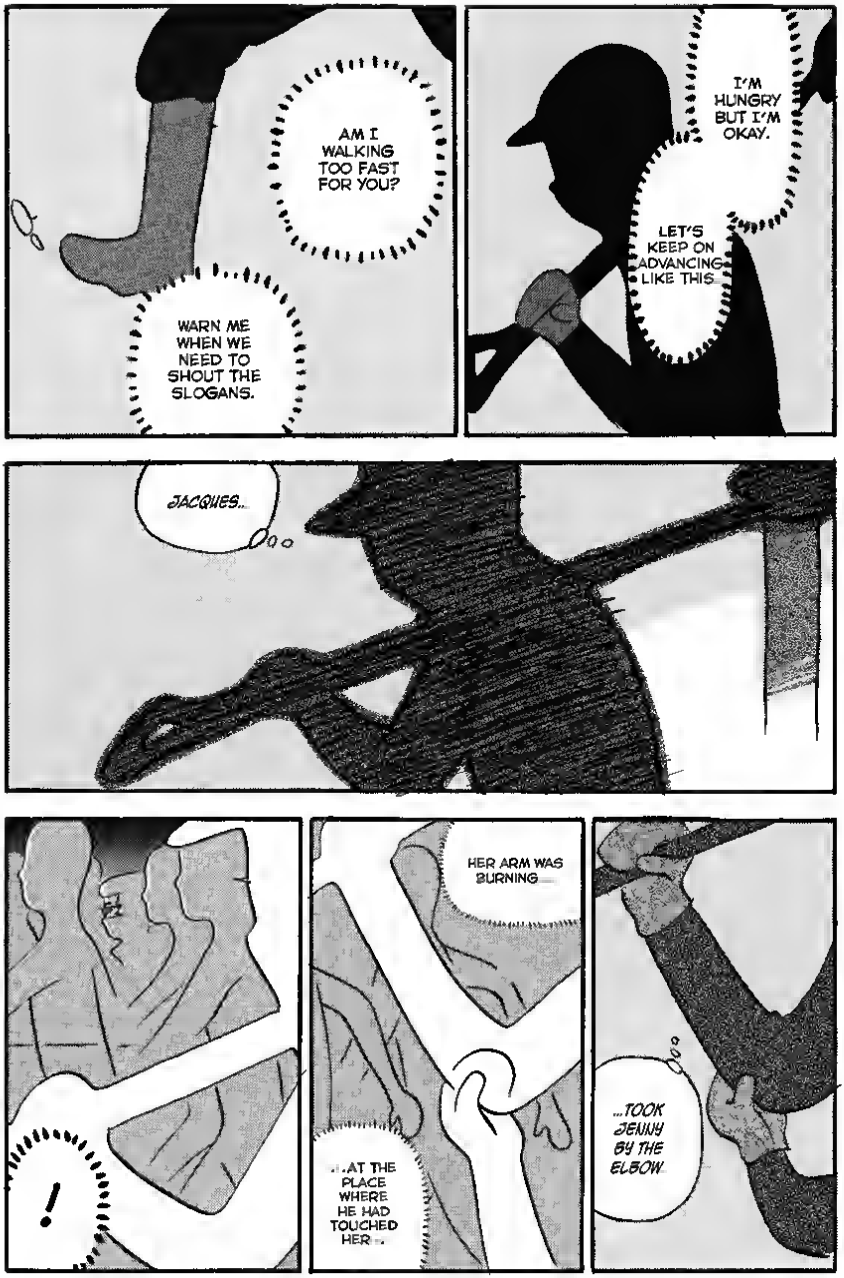
(1) WINTER, SNOW, WINTER, SNOW, FALLING...

I SPENT MY FIRST YEAR OF PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THIS CLASS-ROOM
THE PRIMARY SCHOOL HASN'T CHANGED MUCH, HUH?
HMM...
NEXT DOOR
IN ROOM 2
AND YOU?
KLANK KLANK
THIS THING, IT'S NOT WARMING AT ALL

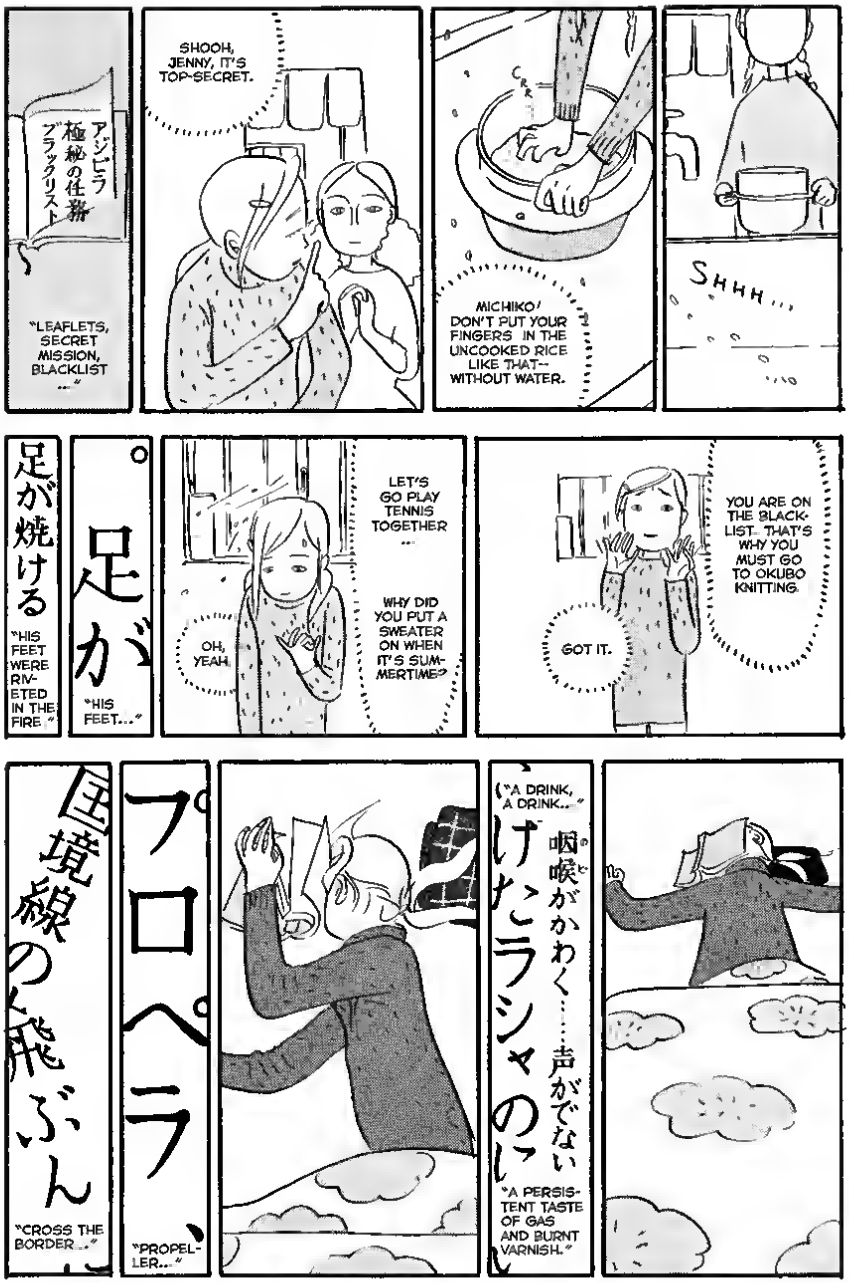
SCHHH
FLOF
POP
POP
Huh? Oh, yeah
TURTLENECKS ARE USEFUL WHEN YOU PUT A CRASH HELMET ON
...IT'S QUIET IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE
AH, AT LEAST...

THANKS
SORRY, I MADE YOU WAIT


JACQUES!
IT'S STOPPED SNOWING.
THERE'RE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE.
AREN'T YOU COLD?
NO, I'M OKAY.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
OR TO THE CAFÉ OF PROGRESS?
MAYBE THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF HUMANITY?


AM I WALKING TOO FAST FOR YOU?
WARN ME WHEN WE NEED TO SHOUT THE SLOGANS.
I'M HUNGRY BUT I'M OKAY.
LET'S KEEP ON ADVANCING LIKE THIS.
JACQUES...
!
HER ARM WAS BURNING...
...AT THE PLACE WHERE HE HAD TOUCHED HER...
...TOOK JENNY BY THE ELBOW.

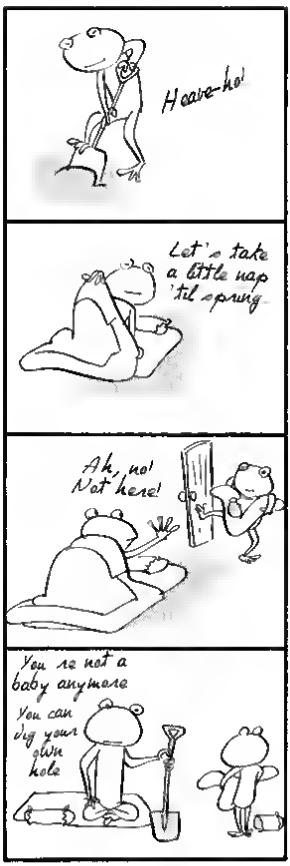
HE'S NOT ONE OF OURS.
JACQUES!
DON'T LET YOURSELF BE FOOLED BY APPEARANCES!
SILENCE!
SILENCE!
SILENCE!
LISTEN UP!
HE'S NOT ONE OF OURS!


アジビラ
極秘の任務
ブラックリスト
"LEAFLETS, SECRET MISSION, BLACKLIST ..."
SHOOH, JENNY, IT'S TOP-SECRET.
MICHIKO! DON'T PUT YOUR FINGERS IN THE UNCOOKED RICE LIKE THAT-- WITHOUT WATER.
SHHH...
足が焼ける
"HIS FEET WERE RIVETED IN THE FIRE."
足が
"HIS FEET..."
LET'S GO PLAY TENNIS TOGETHER ...
OH, YEAH.
WHY DID YOU PUT A SWEATER ON WHEN IT'S SUMMERTIME?
YOU ARE ON THE BLACKLIST. THAT'S WHY YOU MUST GO TO OKUBO KNITTING.
GOT IT.
国境線の飛ぶん
"CROSS THE BORDER..."
プロペラ、
"PROPELLER..."
喉がかわく……声がでない
けたラシャのにおい
("A DRINK, A DRINK..."
"A PERSISTENT TASTE OF GAS AND BURNT VARNISH."

The fall! Jacques is lost.
Lulu's wetted her pants again
IT'S ALL WET!
JACQUES THIBAULT IS DEAD
"STRETCHED... GOLDEN BLOND... THE GRASS?.. THE HAIR?... SUMMER 1914. END."

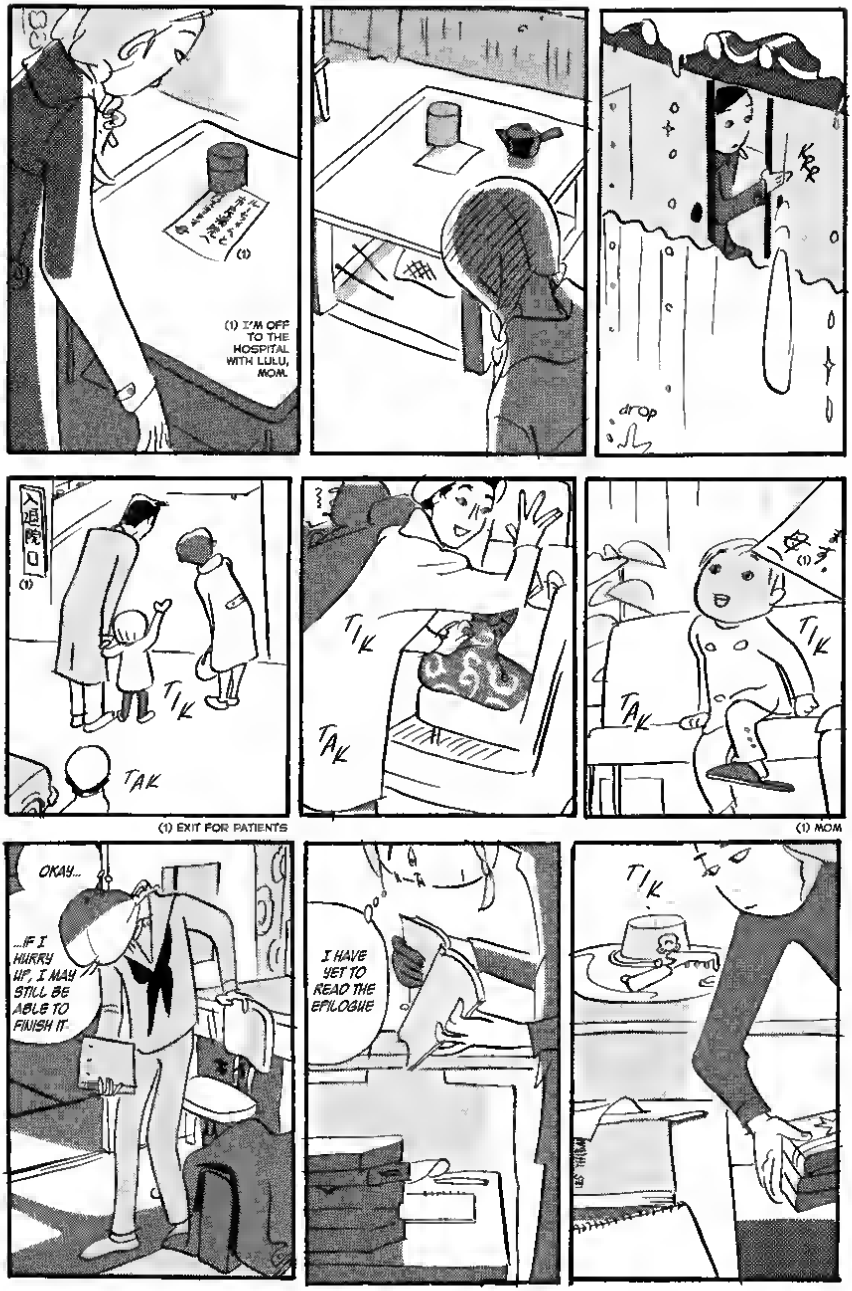
Chapter 5

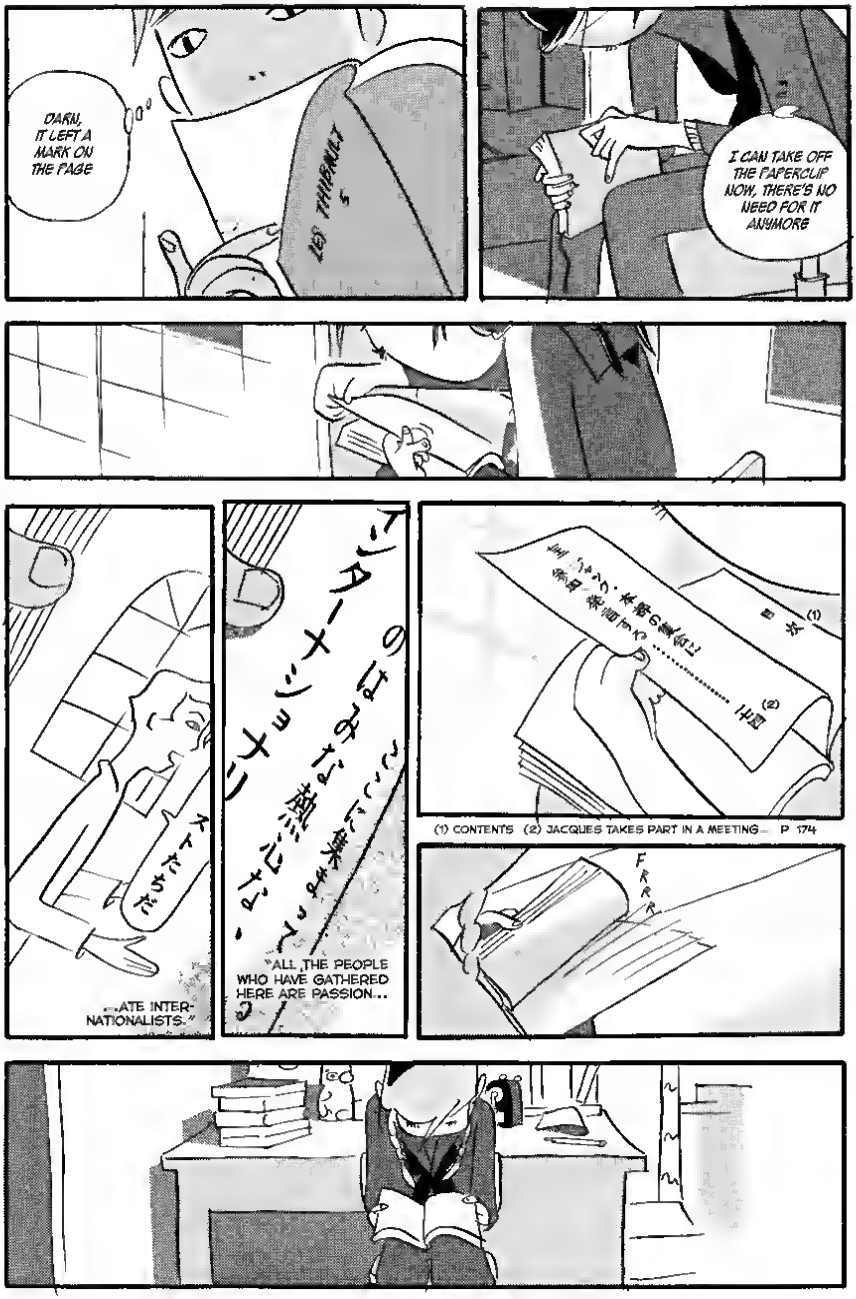
Return to the Country

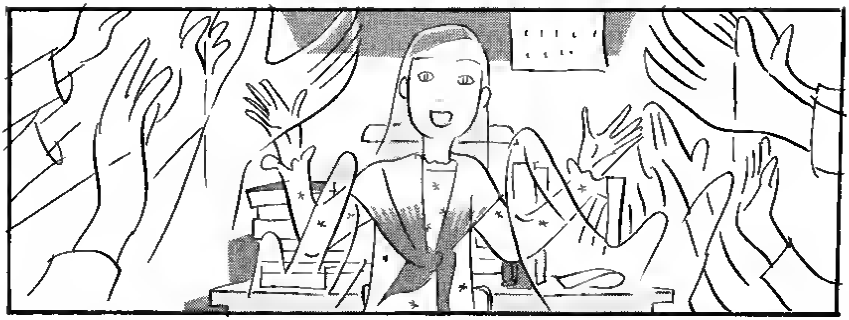


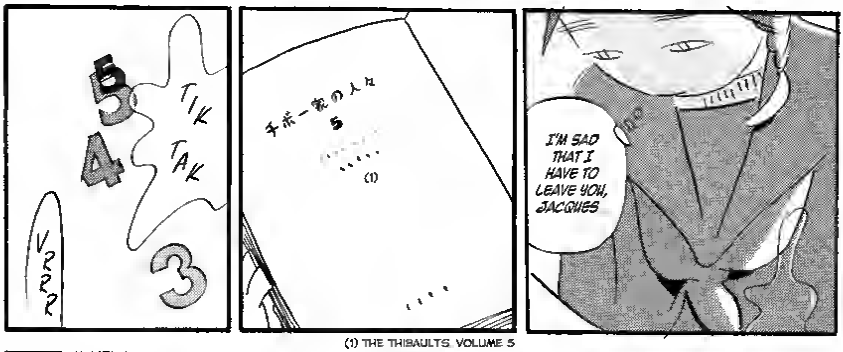
THE STITCH LOOSENS AND TIGHTENS ACCORDING TO YOUR MOVEMENTS, RIGHT?
YES!
OKUBO
OKUBO, NUMBER ONE PRODUCER OF KNIT WEAR IN OUR PREFECTURE, IS NOW INSTILLING NEW ENERGY INTO THE JAPANESE CLOTHING INDUSTRY
TODAY, YOUNG LADIES, I WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR WORK PLACE
A NOTICE FROM THE LIBRARY
DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR BOOKS
会社(1)

(1) A MODERN COMPANY

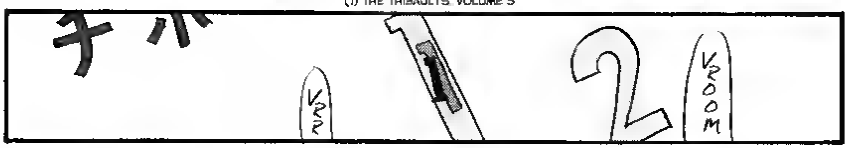

(1)
(1) I'M OFF TO THE HOSPITAL WITH LULU, MOM.
drop
入退院口
(1)
TIK
TAK
(1) EXIT FOR PATIENTS
TIK
TAK
(1)
TIK
TAK
(1) MOM
OKAY...
...IF I HURRY UP, I MAY STILL BE ABLE TO FINISH IT.
I HAVE YET TO READ THE EPILOGUE
TIK

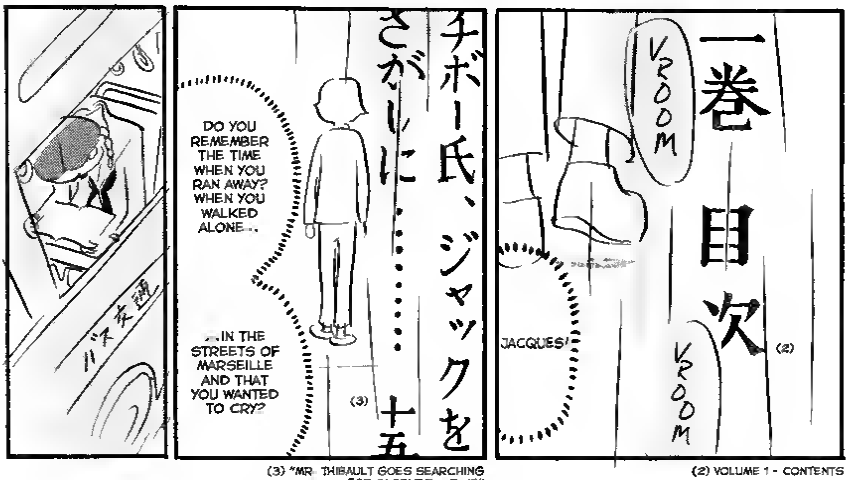

DARN, IT LEFT A MARK ON THE PAGE
I CAN TAKE OFF THE PAPERCLIP NOW, THERE'S NO NEED FOR IT ANYMORE
...ATE INTER-NATIONALISTS."
"ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE GATHERED HERE ARE PASSION...
(1) CONTENTS (2) JACQUES TAKES PART IN A MEETING... P. 174
FRRR





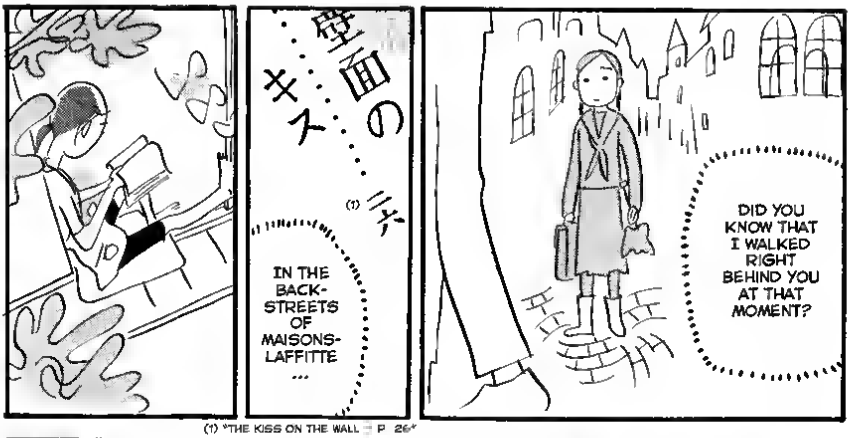
(1) THE THIBAULTS VOLUME 5



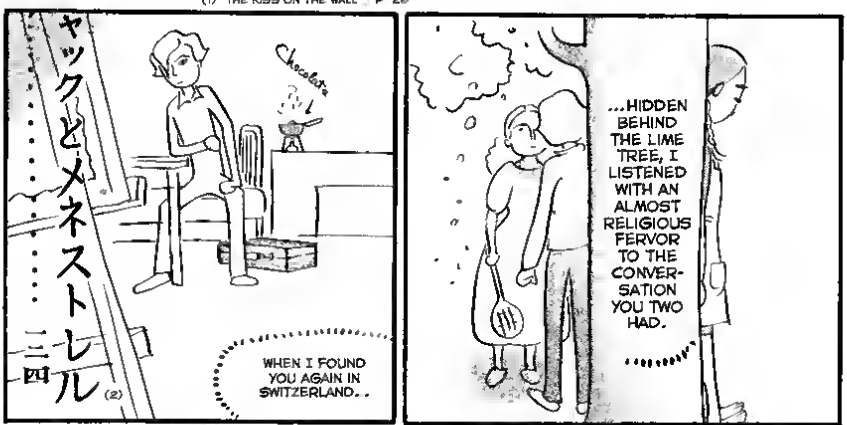


(3) "MR. THIBAULT GOES SEARCHING FOR JACQUES" - P. 15*

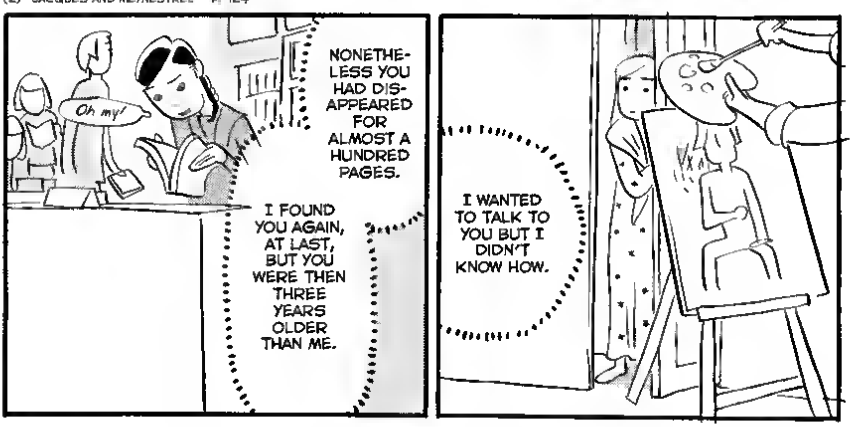
(2) VOLUME 1 - CONTENTS

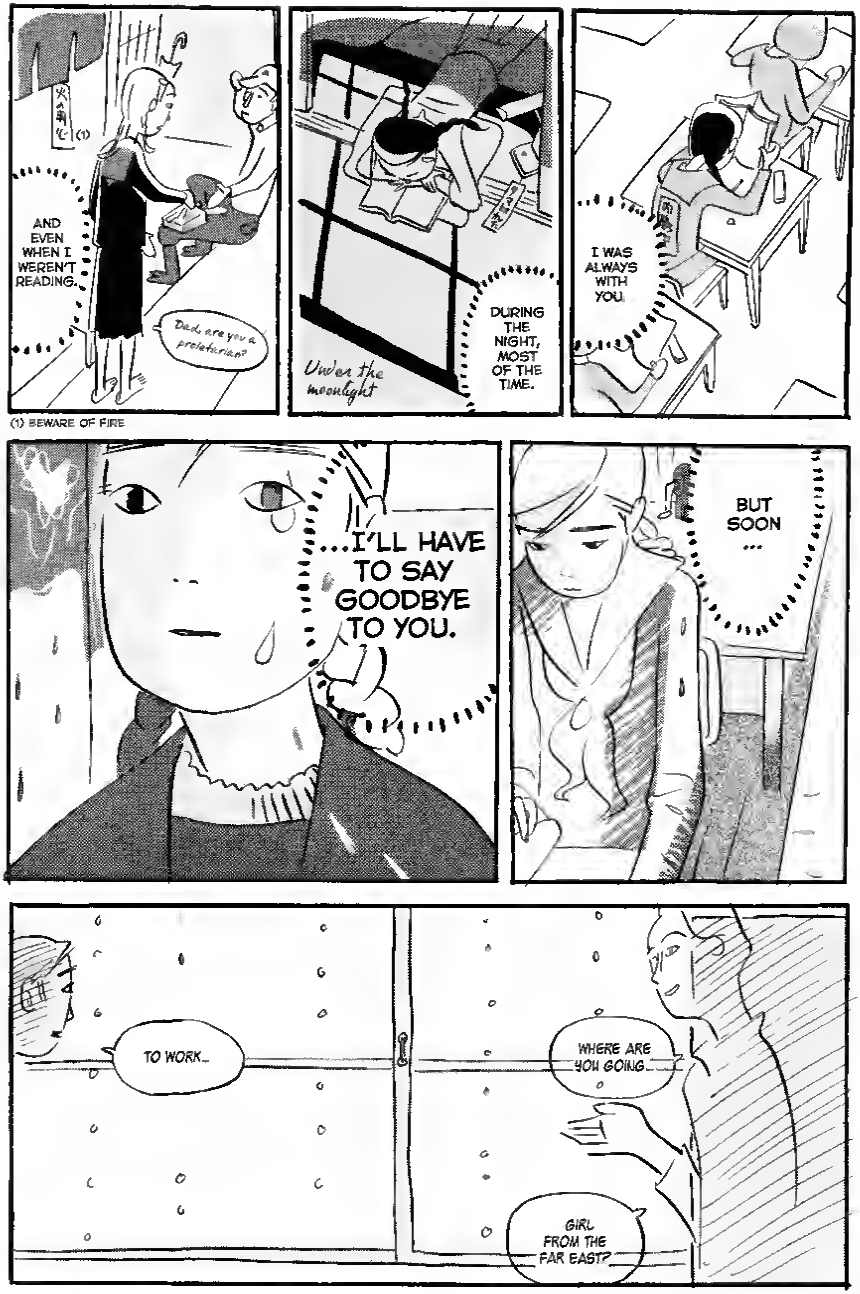


(1) "THE KISS ON THE WALL" — P. 26


ジャックとメネストレル……二四 (2)
Chocolate
WHEN I FOUND YOU AGAIN IN SWITZERLAND...
...HIDDEN BEHIND THE LIME TREE, I LISTENED WITH AN ALMOST RELIGIOUS FERVOR TO THE CONVER-SATION YOU TWO HAD.

(2) "JACQUES AND MEYNESTREL" — P. 124


Oh my!
NONETHE-LESS YOU HAD DIS-APPEARED FOR ALMOST A HUNDRED PAGES.
I FOUND YOU AGAIN, AT LAST, BUT YOU WERE THEN THREE YEARS OLDER THAN ME.
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW.


AND EVEN WHEN I WEREN'T READING.
Dad, are you a proletarian?
Un'er the moonlight
DURING THE NIGHT, MOST OF THE TIME.
I WAS ALWAYS WITH YOU.
(1) BEWARE OF FIRE
...I'LL HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOU.
BUT SOON ...
TO WORK...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING...
GIRL FROM THE FAR EAST?

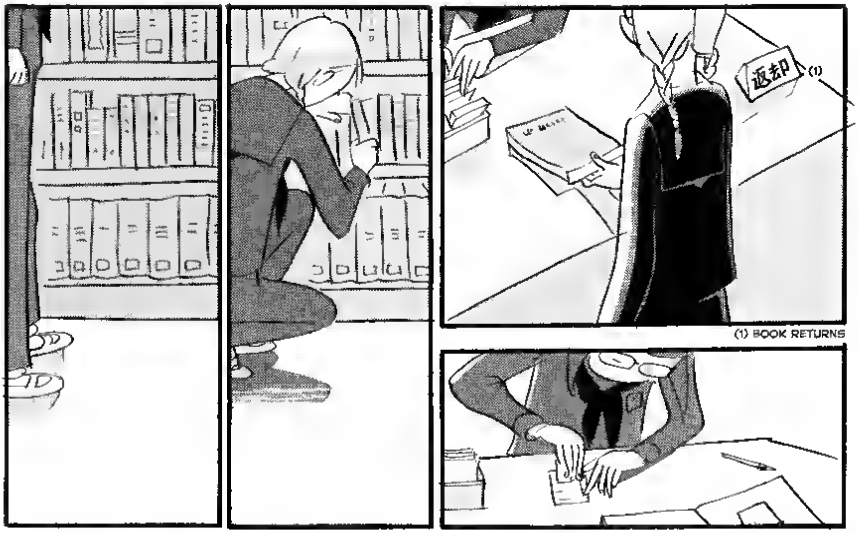
THAT'S GREAT!
YES, I SEE
I MUST ENTER INTO WORKING LIFE
I WILL BE MAKING UNDER-CLOTHES
THAT'S A NEW BRANCH
IN FULL DEVELOPMENT
I'M GOING TO WORK
.. IN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY
..WELL, MAYBE
BUT I SHALL KEEP THE FLAME IN ME
THAT'S IMPORTANT
NO DOUBT
THIS IS MOVING AWAY FROM REVOLUTION THOUGH

...YEAH, GO FOR IT, KID!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
3
HUH?
DO YOU WANT TO BUY THAT BOOK?
HOP HOP HOP
MICHIKO!
...IT'S GOOD TO KEEP THEM FOR LIFE
NO, THANKS!
I'M ALMOST DONE WITH IT!
BUT THE BOOKS WE LOVE..
WE COULD ORDER IT
IF WE BUY THE FIVE VOLUMES TOGETHER, THEY'LL SHIP THEM FOR FREE

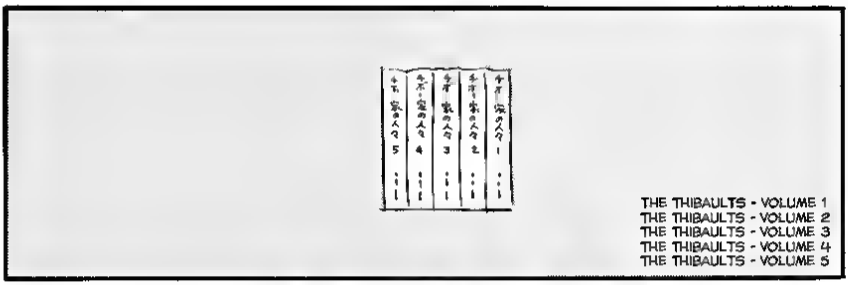
(1) MOKKO THE LITTLE SQUIRREL

FIRST EDITION : SEPTEMBER 5, 1956
38TH EDITION : MAY 10, 1966
PUBLISHER HAKUSUISHA - TOKYO
昭和三十一年九月五日初版発行
昭和四十一年五月一〇日三八版発行
東京都千代田区一ツ橋
発行所 白水社
THE THIBAULTS (COMPLETE IN FIVE VOLUMES) - VOLUME 5
TRANSLATION YAMANOUCHI
チボー家の人々 (全五巻) 第五巻
訳者 山内 (やまのうち)
図書室 (1)
THE HOUSE WITH LILACS IN THE GARDEN, RIGHT?
SOUNDS LIKE YOU KNOW THE PLACE!
YEAH, I DO
AND IF THERE'S NO ONE THERE, YOU CAN ALWAYS LEAVE ME...
...A MESSAGE AT MAISONS-LAFFITTE.
I KNOW!
IN CASE YOU COME TO VISIT ME IN PARIS SOMEDAY, MY BROTHER LIVES IN UNIVERSITY STREET.
COME SEE ME WHENEVER YOU WANT ...
...AT MAISONS-LAFFITTE

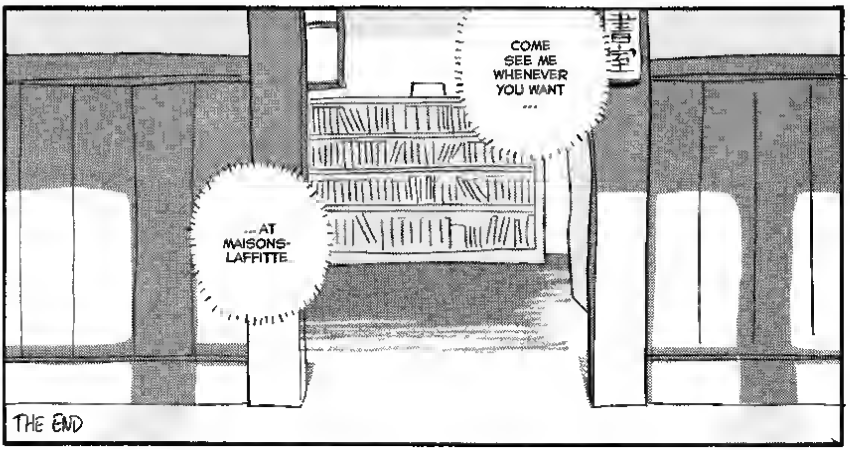
(1) LIBRARY



(1) BOOK RETURNS



THE THIBAULTS - VOLUME 1
THE THIBAULTS - VOLUME 2
THE THIBAULTS - VOLUME 3
THE THIBAULTS - VOLUME 4
THE THIBAULTS - VOLUME 5



Postscript

The central theme in this comic is Roger Martin du Gard's novel series, *Les Thibault*, published in Japan in 1966 by Hakusuisha and translated by Yoshio Yamanouchi. It contains many quotes from the novel, chosen for their relations with the thoughts and actions of my characters. I tried to stay faithful to the meaning of the original work, but it's possible that at certain passages my interpretation differs from the original intent of the author and of the translator.

I want to emphasize that I am taking full responsibility for it.

I direct all my thanks to Hakusuisha and the rights holders of Mr. Yoshio Yamanouchi's works for authorizing the use of extracts of the novel.

Fumiko Takano

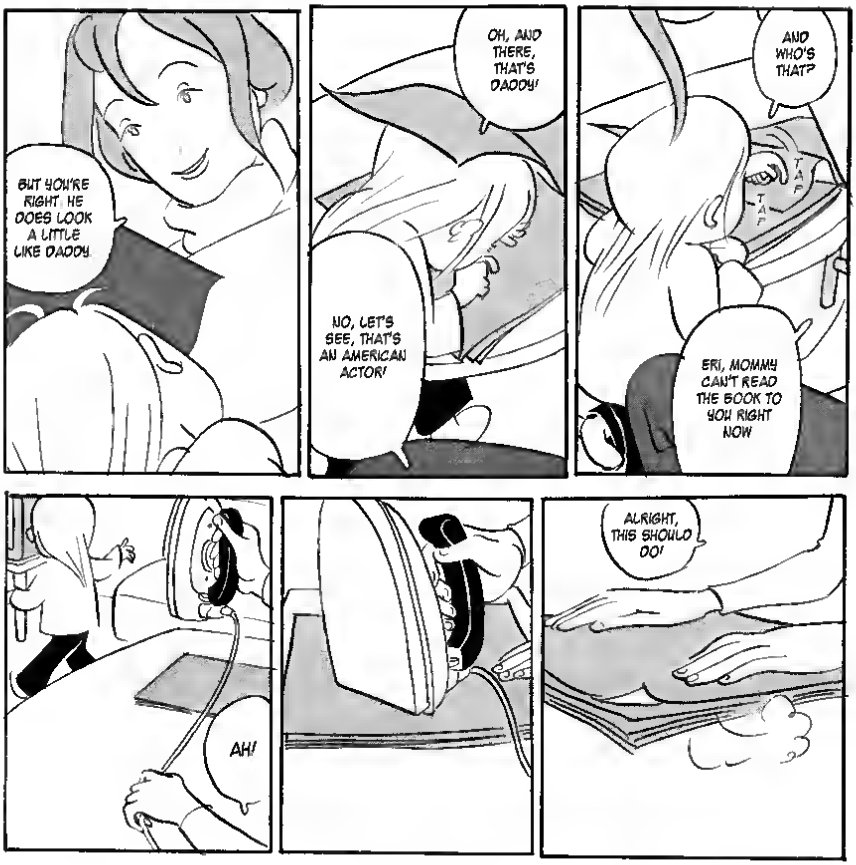
Les Thibault by Roger Martin du Gard, Gallimard Publishing, 1922, provided by the Office of French Copyrights in Tokyo

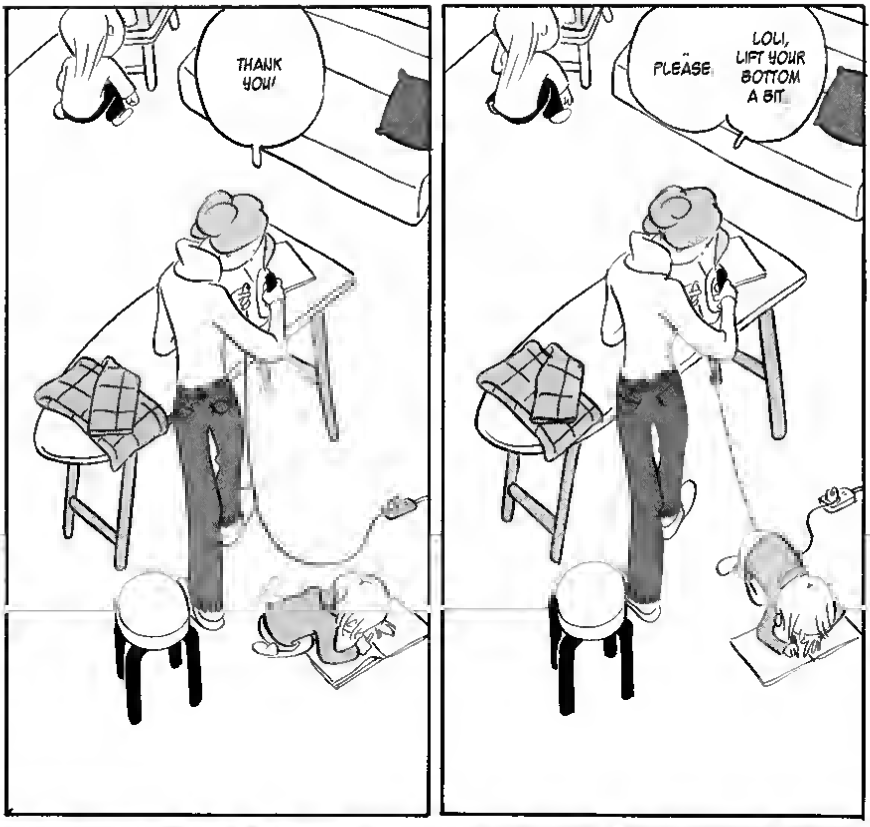
- WHO IS HE, THERE?
- THAT'S JESUS.

- AND SHE, WHO IS SHE?
- THAT'S MARY.

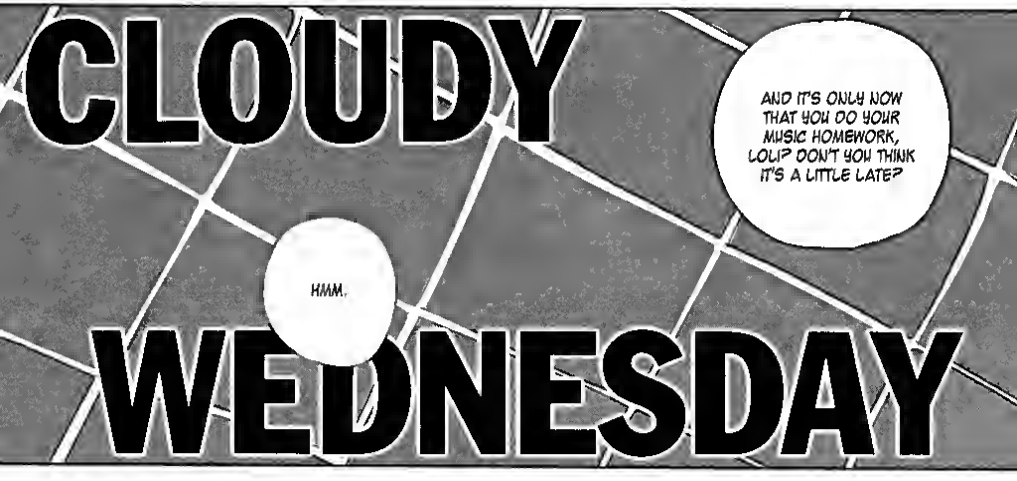
- AND THAT ONE THERE, WHO IS HE?
- HMM... THAT'S AN APOSTLE.

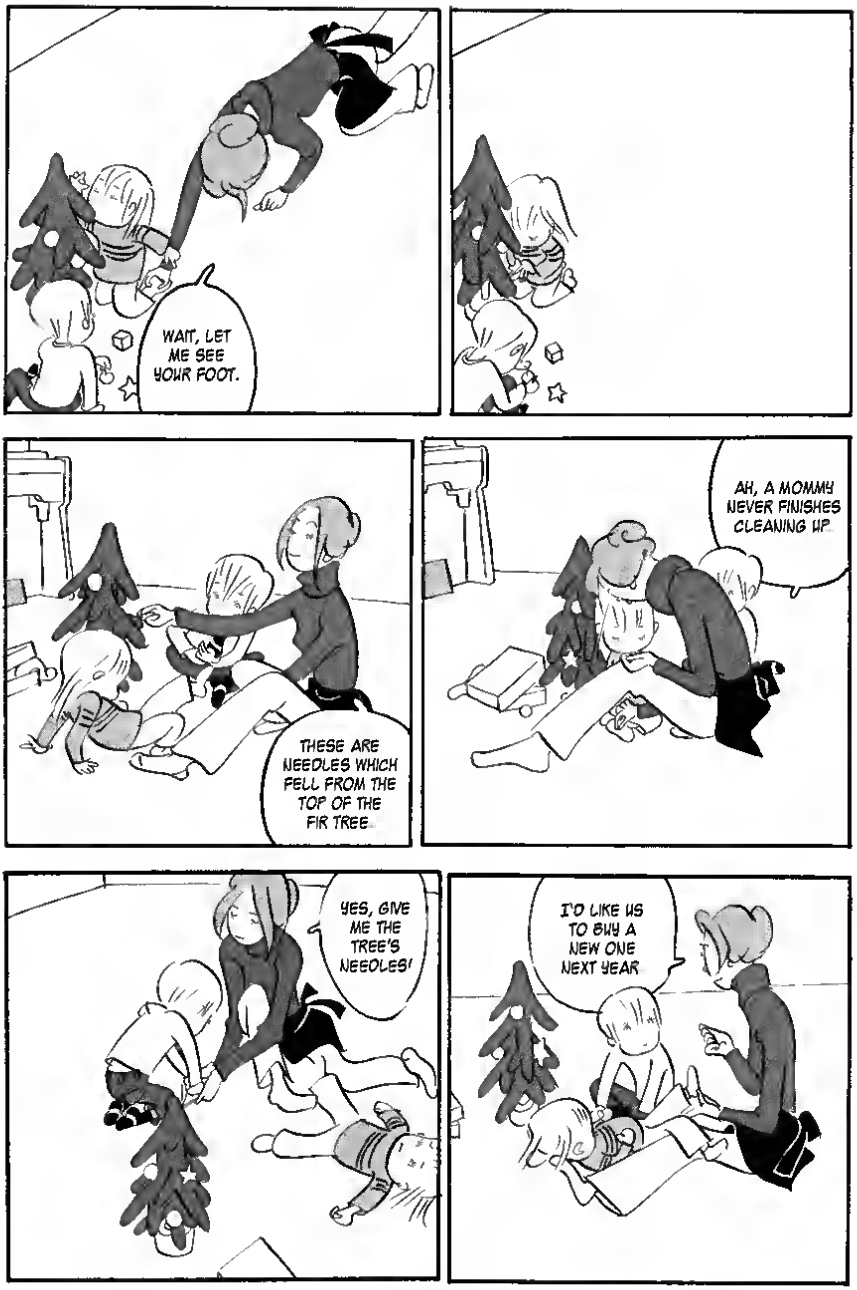
- AND HIM?
- HE TOO, HE IS ONE OF THE APOSTLES.

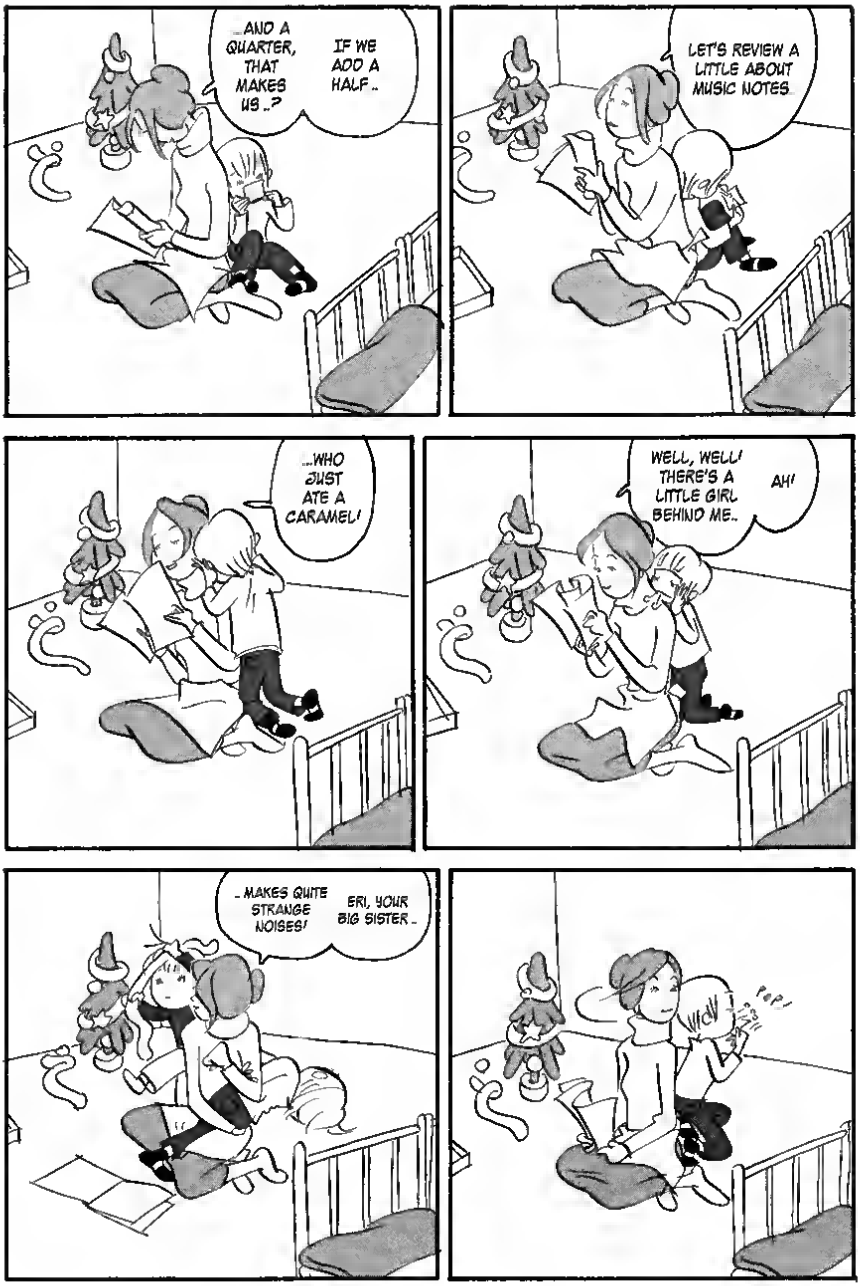

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. HE DOES LOOK A LITTLE LIKE DADDY.
OH, AND THERE, THAT'S DADDY!
NO, LET'S SEE, THAT'S AN AMERICAN ACTOR!
AND WHO'S THAT?
TAP TAP
ERI, MOMMY CAN'T READ THE BOOK TO YOU RIGHT NOW
AH!
ALRIGHT, THIS SHOULD DO!

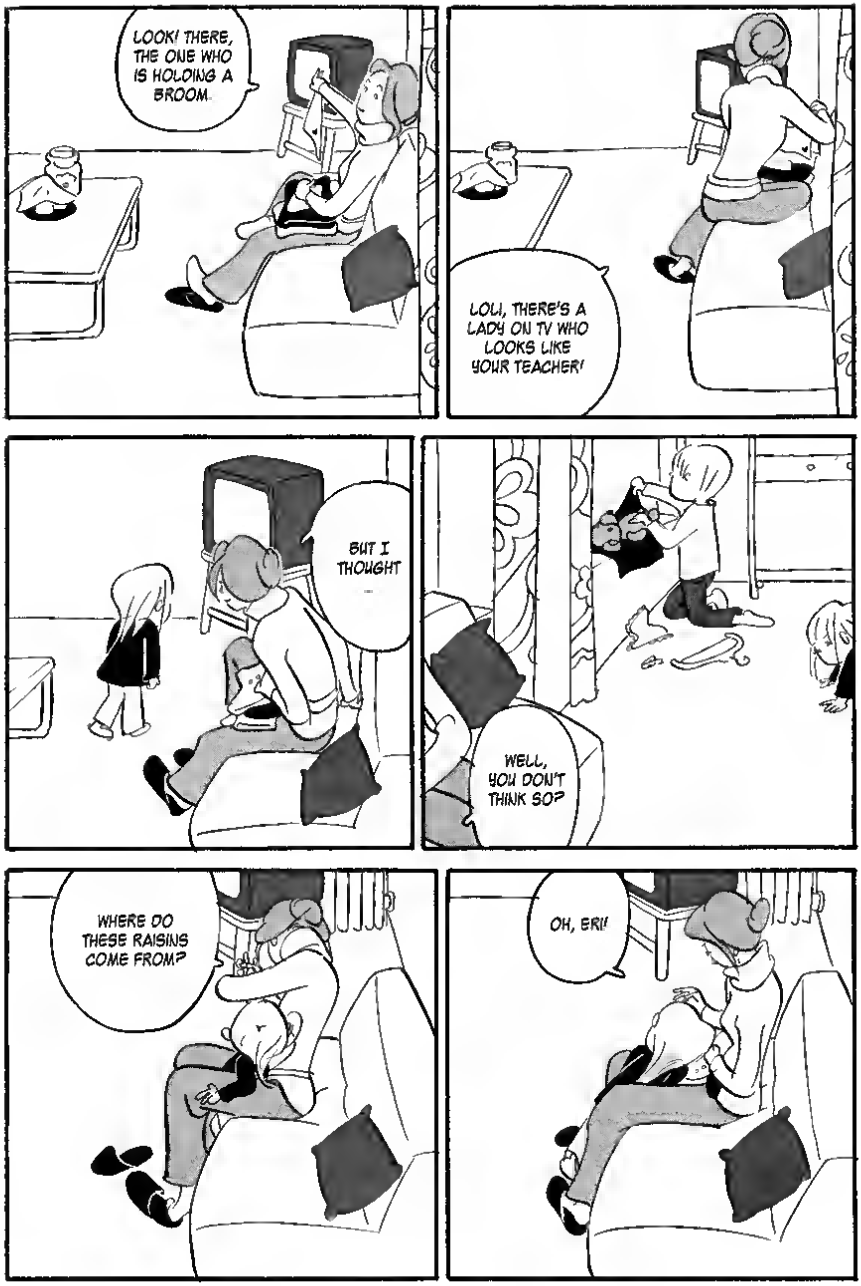


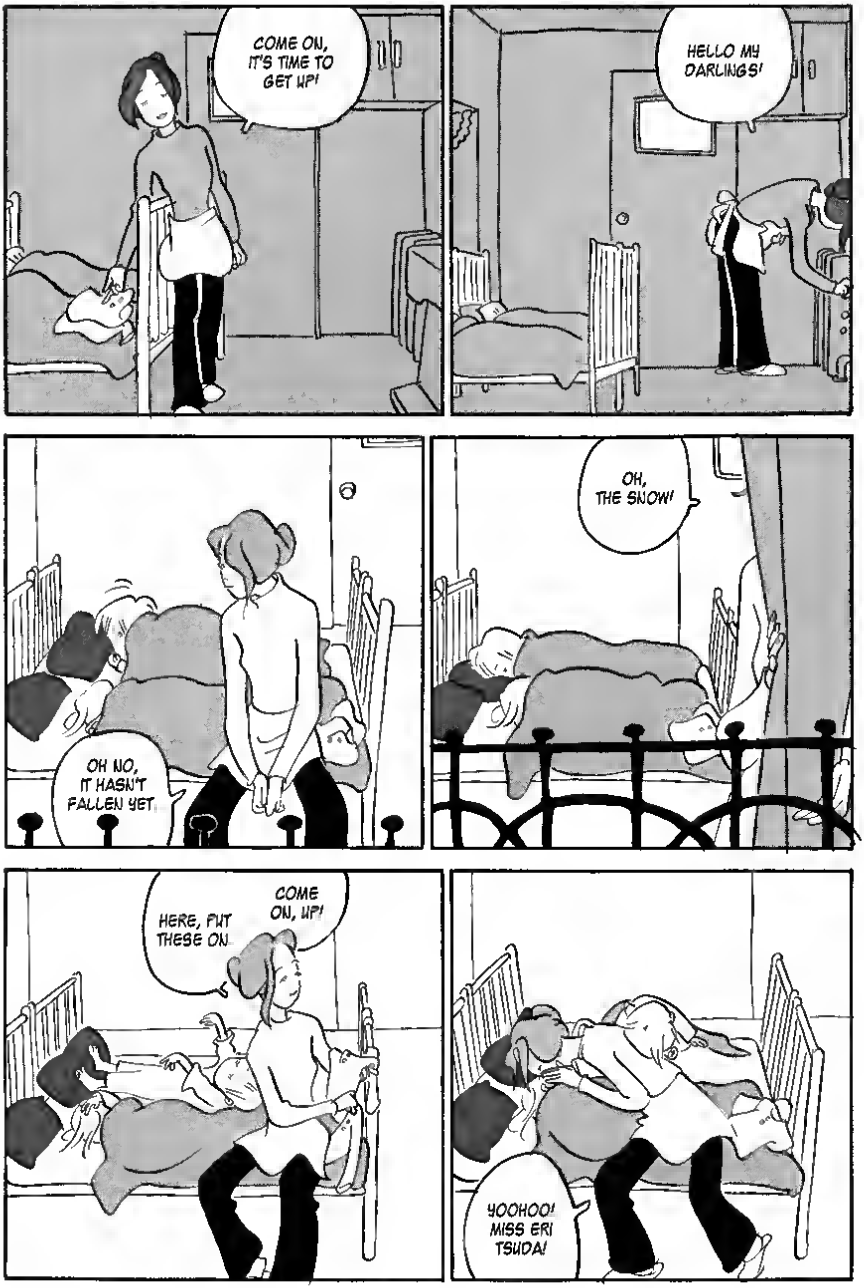
CLOUDY WEDNESDAY

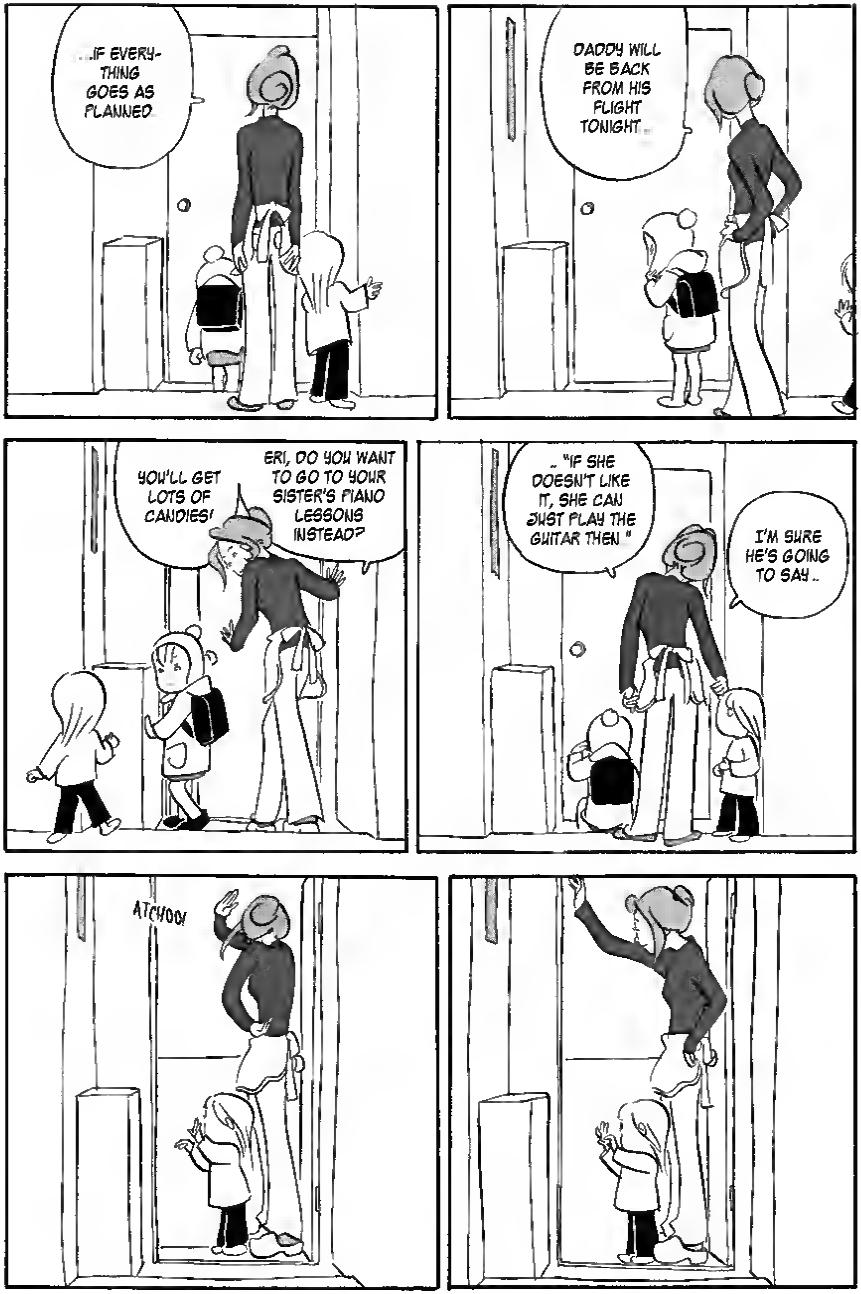


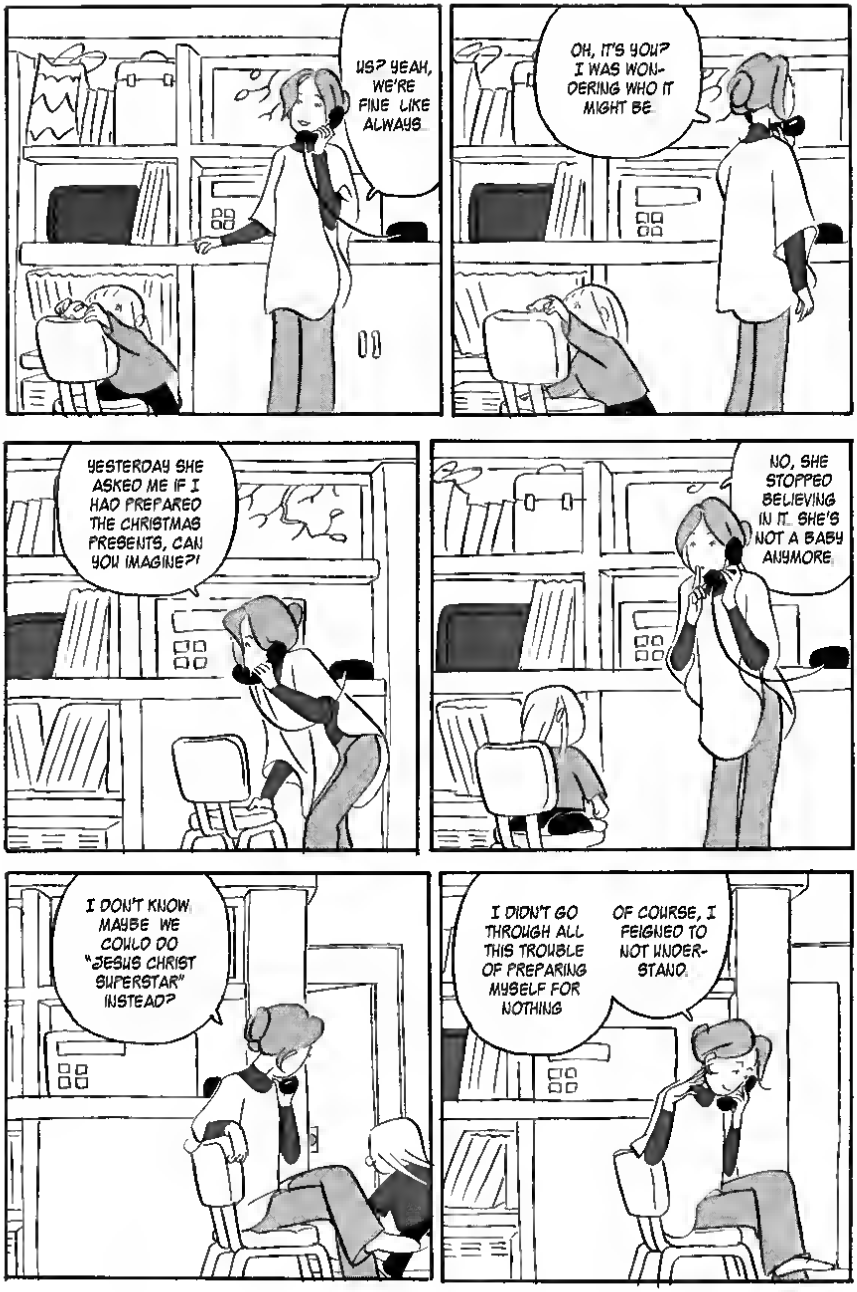

WAIT, LET ME SEE YOUR FOOT.
AH, A MOMMY NEVER FINISHES CLEANING UP.
THESE ARE NEEDLES WHICH FELL FROM THE TOP OF THE FIR TREE.
YES, GIVE ME THE TREE'S NEEDLES!
I'D LIKE US TO BUY A NEW ONE NEXT YEAR.


...AND A QUARTER, THAT MAKES US..?
IF WE ADD A HALF..
LET'S REVIEW A LITTLE ABOUT MUSIC NOTES.
...WHO JUST ATE A CARAMEL!
WELL, WELL! THERE'S A LITTLE GIRL BEHIND ME..
AH!
..MAKES QUITE STRANGE NOISES!
ERI, YOUR BIG SISTER..
Pop!


LOOK! THERE, THE ONE WHO IS HOLDING A BROOM.
LOLI, THERE'S A LADY ON TV WHO LOOKS LIKE YOUR TEACHER!
BUT I THOUGHT
WELL, YOU DON'T THINK SO?
WHERE DO THESE RAISINS COME FROM?
OH, ERI!

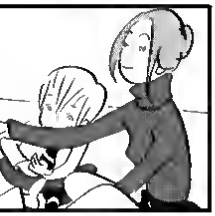

COME ON, IT'S TIME TO GET UP!
HELLO MY DARLINGS!
OH NO, IT HASN'T FALLEN YET.
OH, THE SNOW!
HERE, PUT THESE ON.
COME ON, UP!
YOOHOO! MISS ERI TSUDA!


...IF EVERY-THING GOES AS PLANNED
DADDY WILL BE BACK FROM HIS FLIGHT TONIGHT...
ERI, DO YOU WANT TO GO TO YOUR SISTER'S PIANO LESSONS INSTEAD?
YOU'LL GET LOTS OF CANDIES!
.. "IF SHE DOESN'T LIKE IT, SHE CAN JUST PLAY THE GUITAR THEN."
I'M SURE HE'S GOING TO SAY..
ATCHOO!


US? YEAH, WE'RE FINE LIKE ALWAYS.
OH, IT'S YOU? I WAS WONDERING WHO IT MIGHT BE.
YESTERDAY SHE ASKED ME IF I HAD PREPARED THE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, CAN YOU IMAGINE?!
NO, SHE STOPPED BELIEVING IN IT. SHE'S NOT A BABY ANYMORE.
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE WE COULD DO "JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR" INSTEAD?
I DIDN'T GO THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE OF PREPARING MYSELF FOR NOTHING
OF COURSE, I FEIGNED TO NOT UNDERSTAND.

DADDY! DADDY!
LOLI SAID THAT SHE DIDN'T LIKE THE PIANO!
HELLO EVERYONE!
THAT WOULD BE GREAT, DON'T YOU THINK?
DADDY'S HOME!
DADDYYYYY!
BUMP!
HEY THERE!
OH, IT'S LOLI WHO'S BACK!
KLAK
SOUNDS LIKE MOMMY'S GOT A COLD?
YEAH!

LOU, IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, JUST PLAY THE GUITAR!



Postscript

This short story was done for a special "remake" issue of the magazine Comic Cue (East Press) that was published in 1996.

It is based on the comic of the same name by Saho Tôno (which was republished in 1997 in the anthology *Twinkle* by Magazine House) and appears in this short stories collection with Miss Saho Tôno's friendly consent.

ココア
カップスープ
茶
RIGHT TO LEFT: HERBAL TEA; COCOA; GREEN TEA; CORN SOUP

1

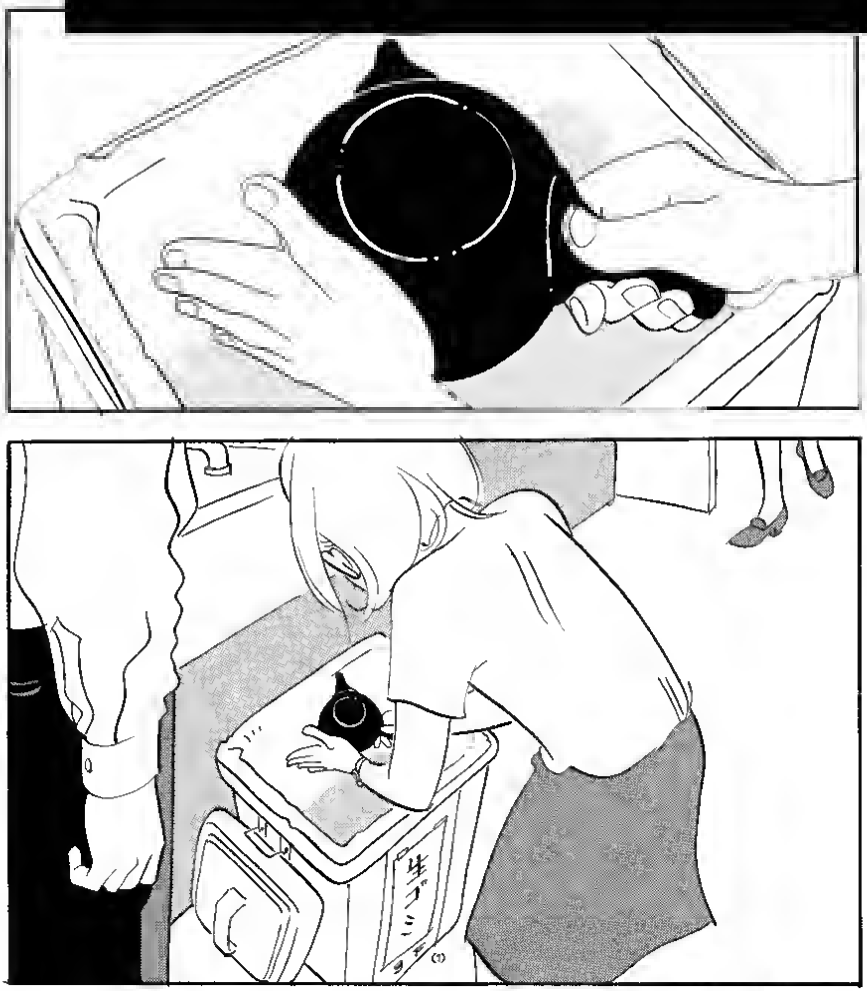
ふりかけ
たまご
MUSTARD,
SEAWEED FLAKES

おてもと
READY-TO-SERVE MEALS,
JUST LIKE HOME,
AT THE KITCHEN KING'S

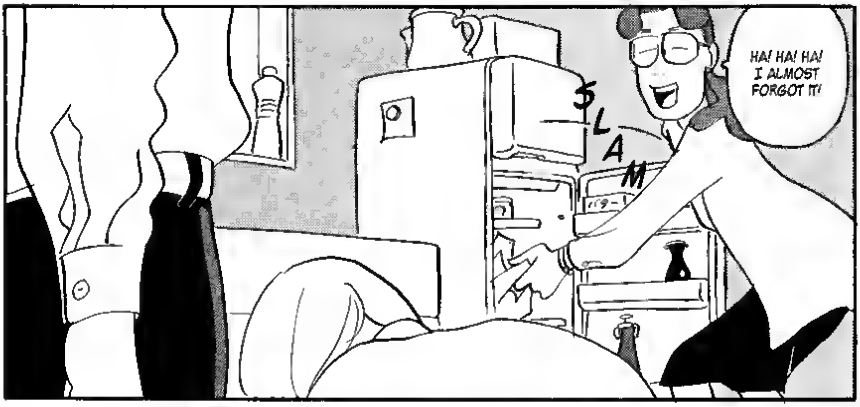
生ゴミ
3F
KITCHEN WASTE;
3RD FLOOR

給湯の後は種火を
SWITCH OFF THE PILOT FLAME
AFTER USING HOT WATER

MAYONNAISE



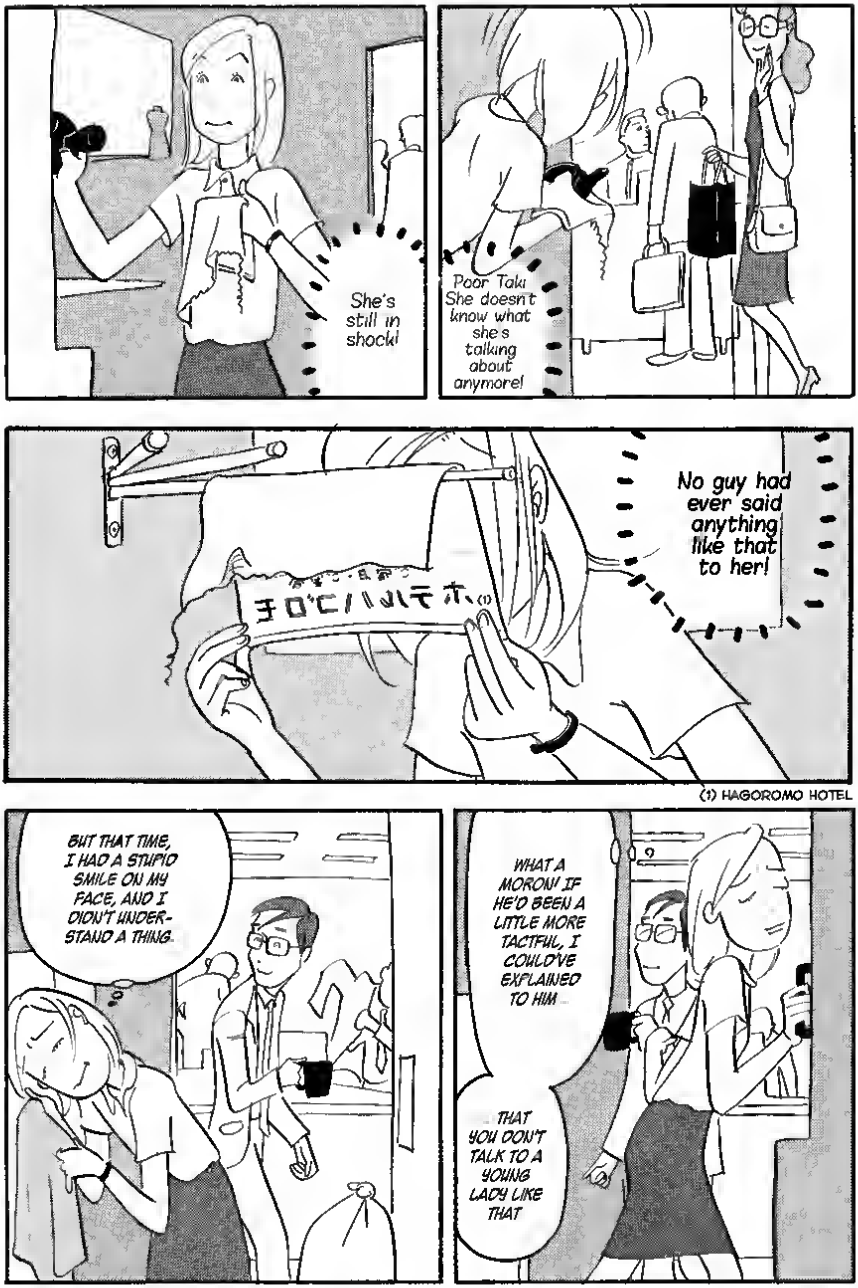
(1) KITCHEN WASTE, 3RD FLOOR

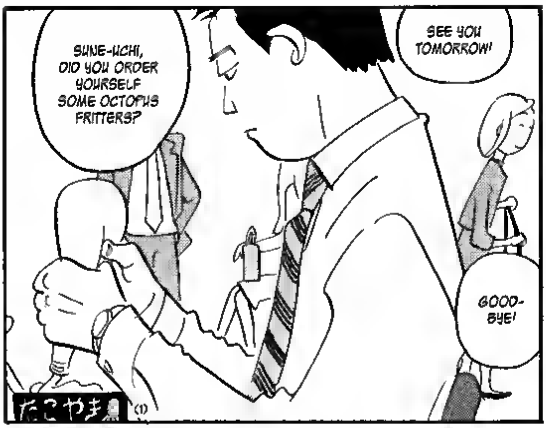


(1) EMBARRASSED LAUGHTER

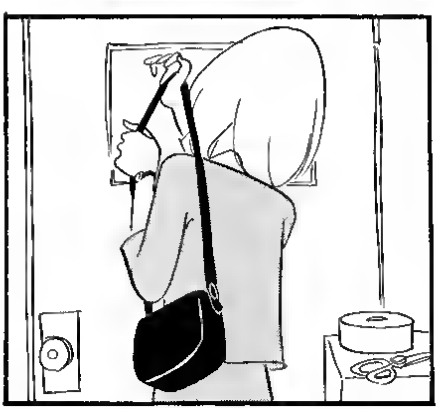
(2) HER LAUGHTER IS JUST AS EMBARRASSED.

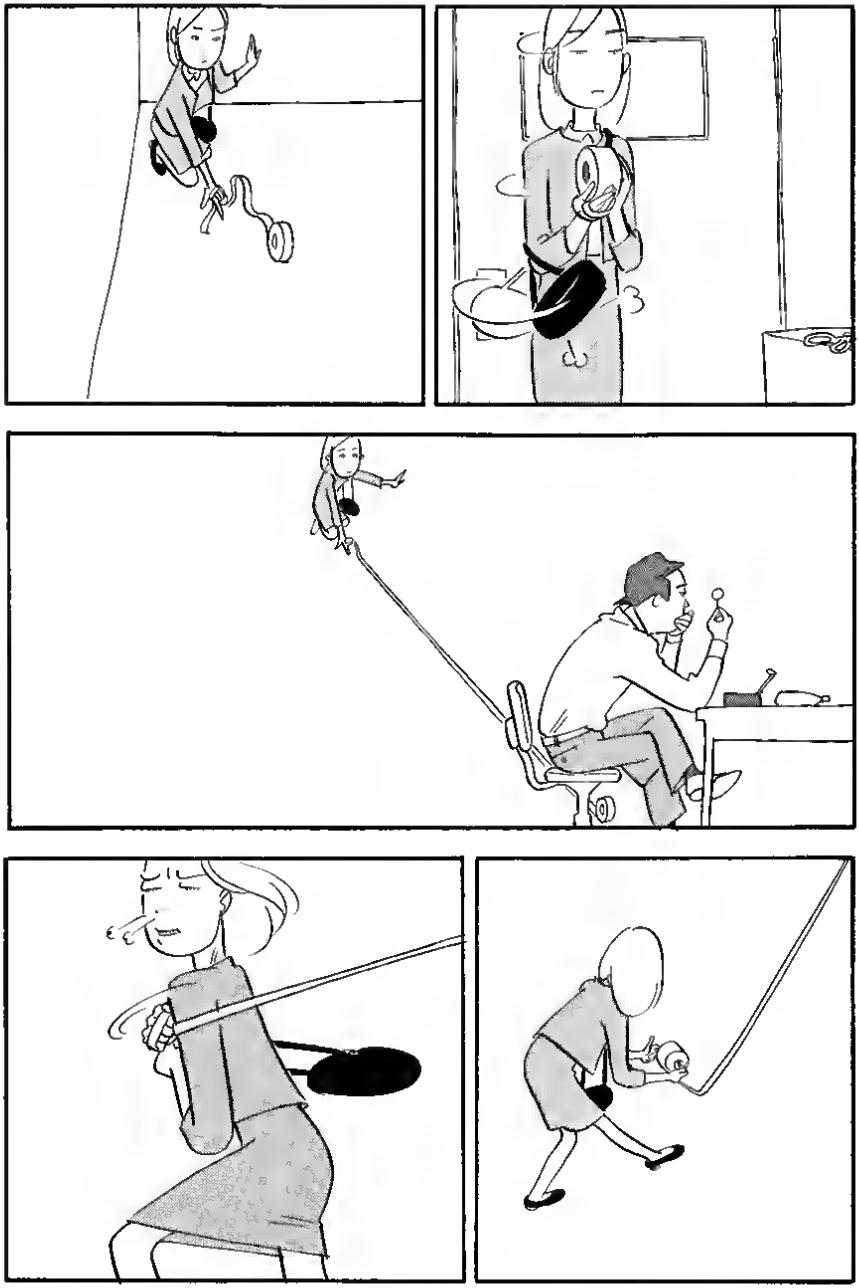
YOU WERE ABOUT TO FORGET YOUR PRECIOUS STEAK!
茶
YES! I WENT OUT SPECIALLY TO BUY IT DURING MY LUNCH BREAK
ONAKA GUU
YUP, I LIKE TOFU TOO.
HUH? OH, IT'S TRUE THAT WHERE YOU COME FROM, IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, MEAT IS A LUXURY, IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE
Tofu? Are you crazy? Get yourself together!
I MARINATE BEEF IN MISO HOW ABOUT YOU, TAKI?
Soup? What are you talking about?
MISO SOUP? OH YES, I LIKE THAT.


She's still in shock!
Poor Taki. She doesn't know what she's talking about anymore!
No guy had ever said anything like that to her!
(1) HAGOROMO HOTEL
BUT THAT TIME, I HAD A STUPID SMILE ON MY FACE, AND I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A THING.
WHAT A MORON! IF HE'D BEEN A LITTLE MORE TACTFUL, I COULD'VE EXPLAINED TO HIM...
...THAT YOU DON'T TALK TO A YOUNG LADY LIKE THAT



(1) OCTOPUS FRITTERS

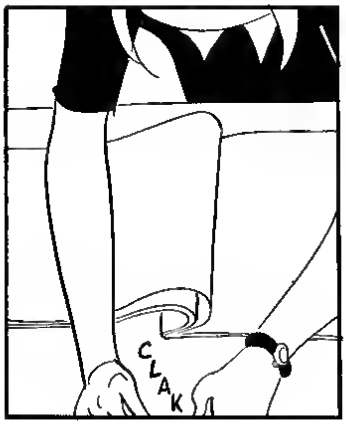




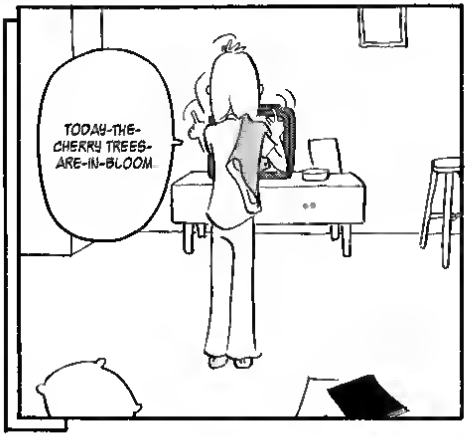
Sune-uchi, he didn't beat around the bush!
AND I NEED MONEY
STOP IT
He basically offered
to take her to a hotel
on that beautiful May evening!

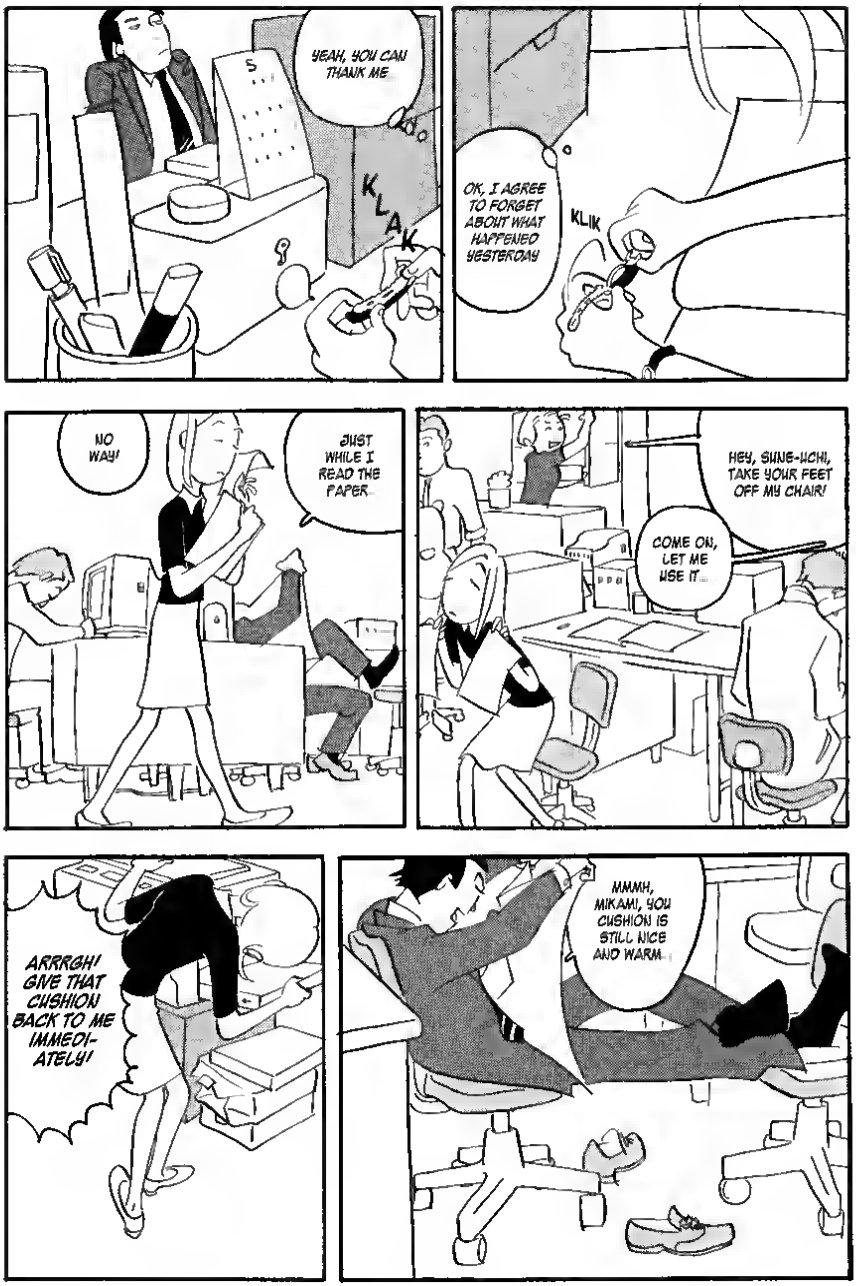
2

(1) HAVE FUN LEARNING SIGN LANGUAGE (2) PROFESSOR WRINKLE

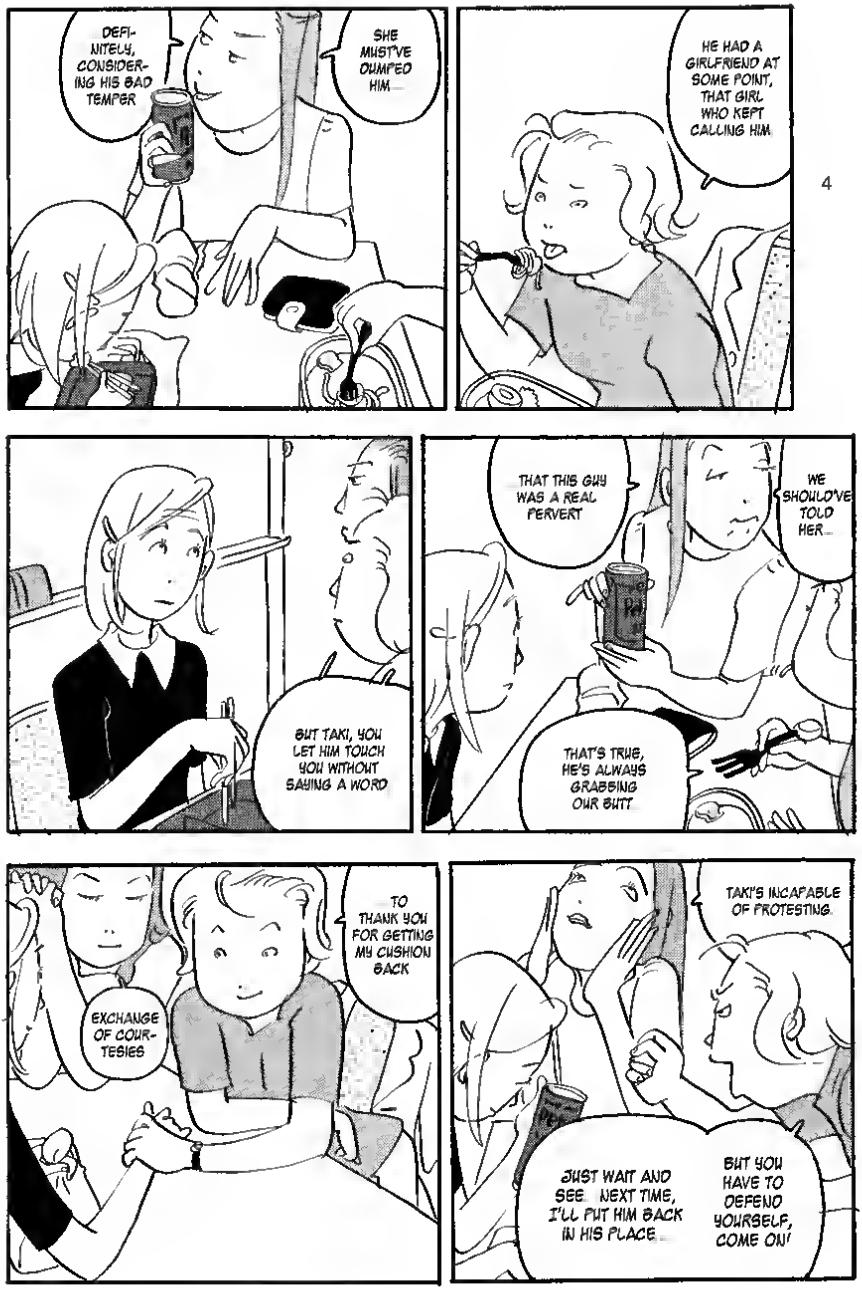


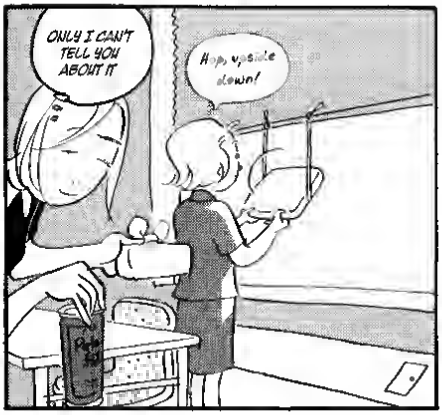
3



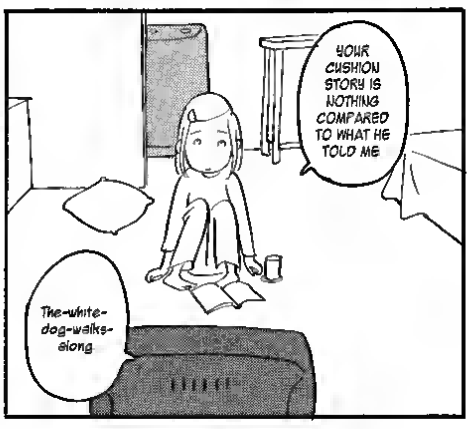

YEAH, YOU CAN THANK ME
KLAK
OK, I AGREE TO FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY
KLIK
NO WAY!
JUST WHILE I READ THE PAPER
HEY, SHIN-UCHI, TAKE YOUR FEET OFF MY CHAIR!
COME ON, LET ME USE IT
ARRRGH! GIVE THAT CUSHION BACK TO ME IMMEDI-ATELY!
MMMH, MIKAMI, YOU CUSHION IS STILL NICE AND WARM

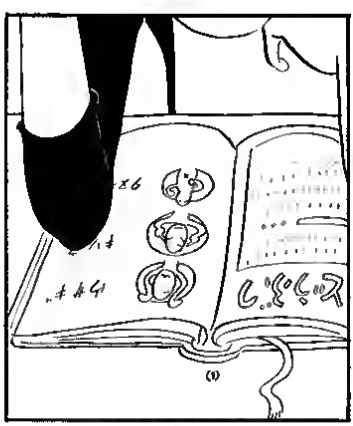
I SAID GIVE THAT BACK TO ME!
CLUNK
CLUNK
TAK!!!!!
HEEELP!!!
HE HE HE!
THANKS! THANKS!
TAK!
SHE WAS READY TO TEAR YOU TO SHREDS!


DEFINITELY, CONSIDERING HIS BAD TEMPER
SHE MUST'VE DUMPED HIM...
HE HAD A GIRLFRIEND AT SOME POINT, THAT GIRL WHO KEPT CALLING HIM
4
BUT TAKI, YOU LET HIM TOUCH YOU WITHOUT SAYING A WORD
THAT THIS GUY WAS A REAL PERVERT
WE SHOULD'VE TOLD HER...
THAT'S TRUE, HE'S ALWAYS GRABBING OUR BUTT
EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES
TO THANK YOU FOR GETTING MY CUSHION BACK
TAKI'S INCAPABLE OF PROTESTING
JUST WAIT AND SEE. NEXT TIME, I'LL PUT HIM BACK IN HIS PLACE...
BUT YOU HAVE TO DEFEND YOURSELF, COME ON!



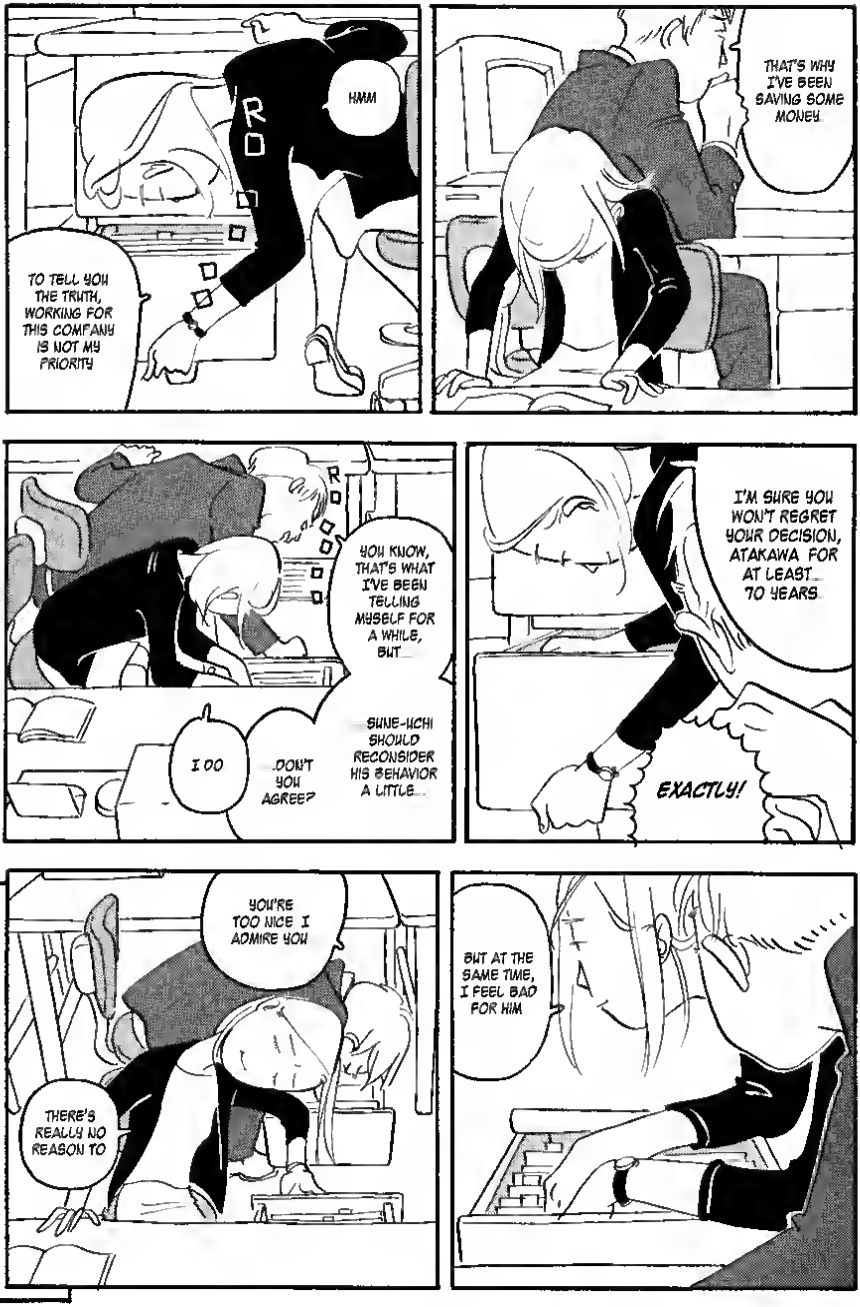
AH, MIKAMI, IF YOU KNEW HOW MUCH I RESENT YOU FOR THAT!
IF YOU'D BEEN ABLE TO DEFEND YOURSELF ON YOUR OWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DRAW ATTENTION TO MYSELF THE WAY I DID





5

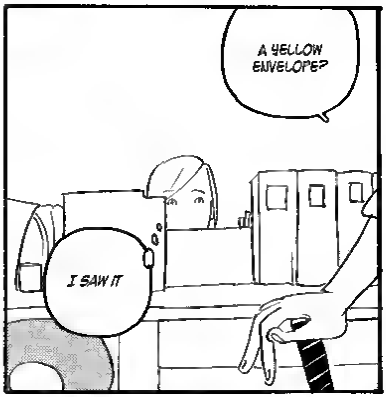
(1) ANIMALS RABBIT, FOX, BADGER...

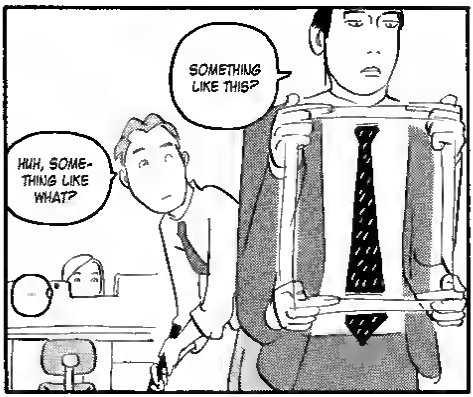

HMM
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, WORKING FOR THIS COMPANY IS NOT MY PRIORITY
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN SAVING SOME MONEY
I'M SURE YOU WON'T REGRET YOUR DECISION, ATAKAWA FOR AT LEAST 70 YEARS
EXACTLY!
YOU KNOW, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TELLING MYSELF FOR A WHILE, BUT
SUNE-UCHI SHOULD RECONSIDER HIS BEHAVIOR A LITTLE
I DO
DON'T YOU AGREE?
YOU'RE TOO NICE I ADMIRE YOU
THERE'S REALLY NO REASON TO
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I FEEL BAD FOR HIM
TA

WHEN I LEFT, DIDN'T I HAVE SOMETHING OTHER THAN MY BAG?

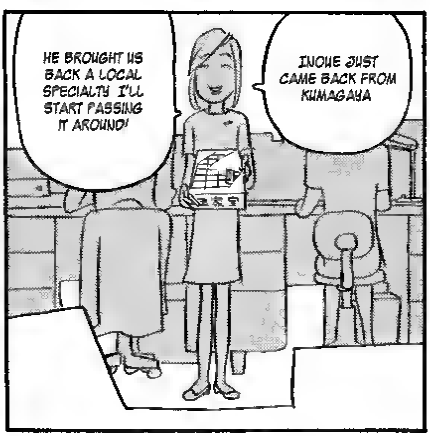
TELL ME, ATAKAWA, WAS IT RAINING LAST NIGHT?

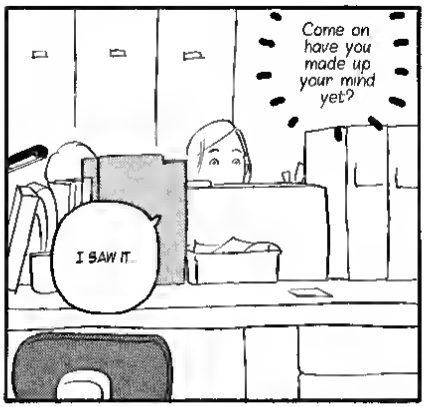
6

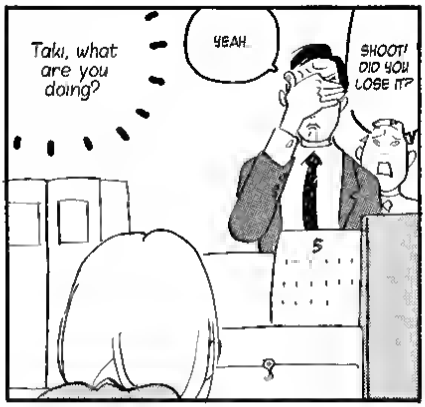

A YELLOW ENVELOPE?
I SAW IT


SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
HUH, SOME-THING LIKE WHAT?

I SAW IT WHEN I PUT THE COOKIES ON HIS DESK


HE BROUGHT US BACK A LOCAL SPECIALTY I'LL START PASSING IT AROUND!
INOUE JUST CAME BACK FROM KUMAGAYA

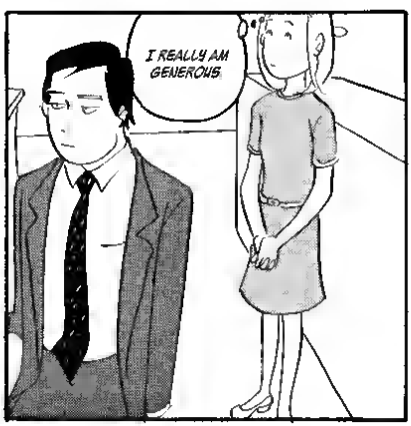

Come on have you made up your mind yet?
I SAW IT...

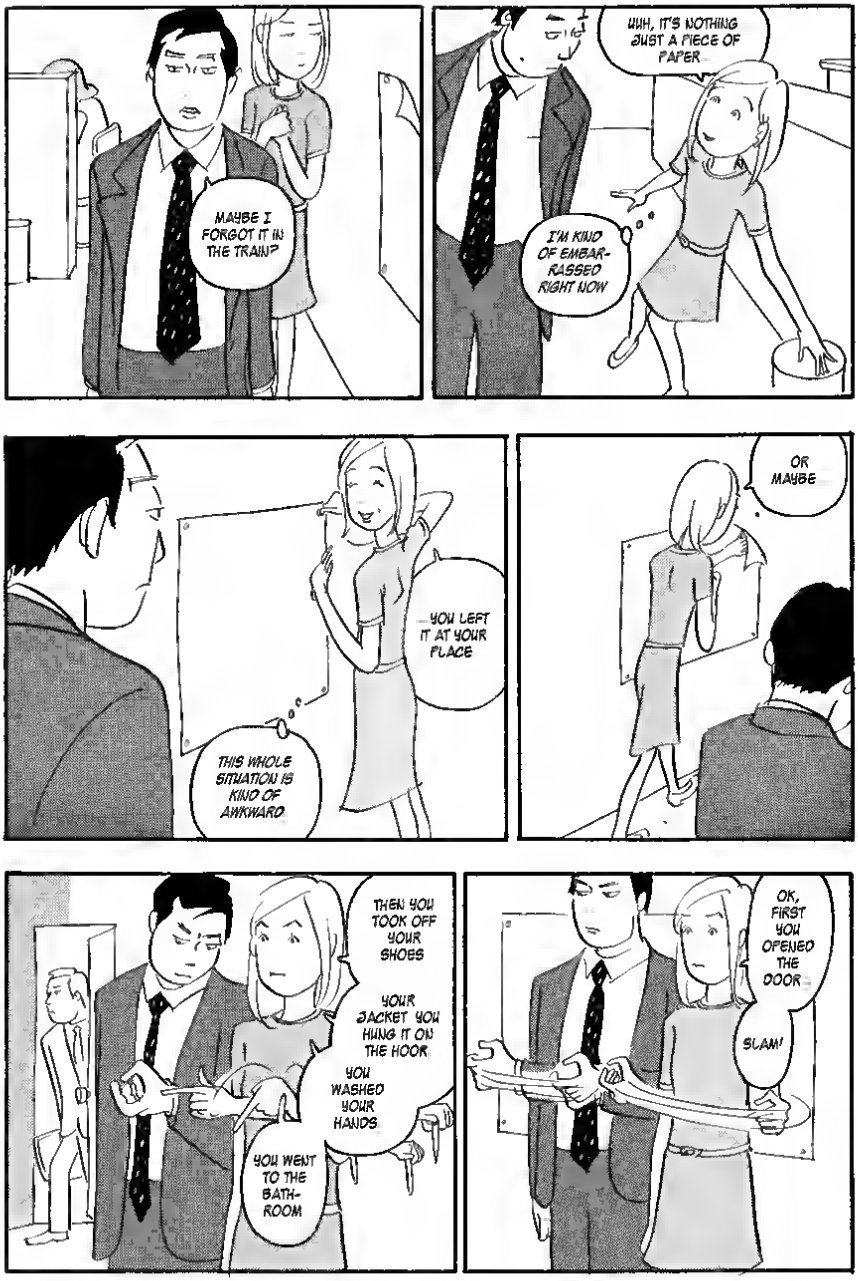

Taki, what are you doing?
YEAH...
SHOOT! DID YOU LOSE IT?

HERE?
YES

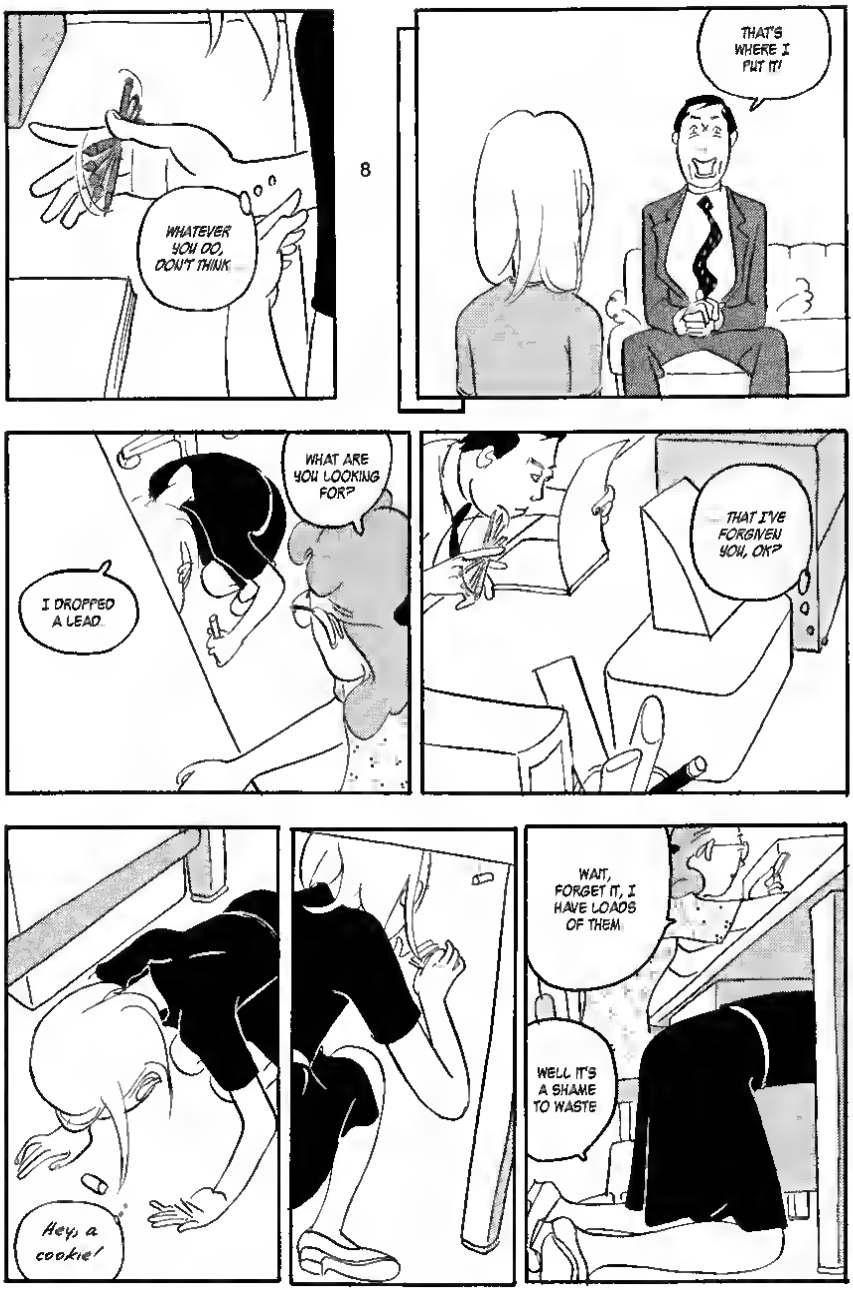
7

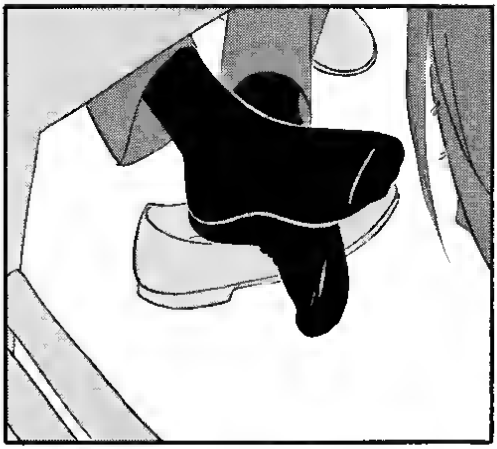
YESTER-DAY...
ON YOUR DESK


I REALLY AM GENEROUS

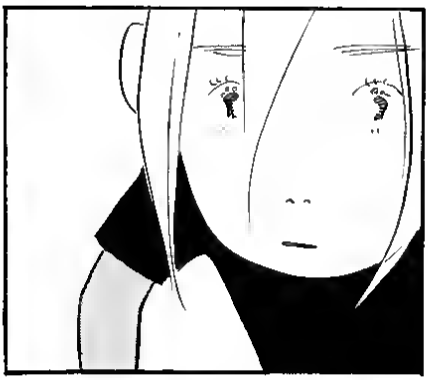

MAYBE I FORGOT IT IN THE TRAIN?
UHH, IT'S NOTHING JUST A PIECE OF PAPER...
I'M KIND OF EMBARRASSED RIGHT NOW
...YOU LEFT IT AT YOUR PLACE
THIS WHOLE SITUATION IS KIND OF AWKWARD...
OR MAYBE
THEN YOU TOOK OFF YOUR SHOES
YOUR JACKET YOU HUNG IT ON THE HOOK
YOU WASHED YOUR HANDS
YOU WENT TO THE BATHROOM
OK, FIRST YOU OPENED THE DOOR...
SLAM!

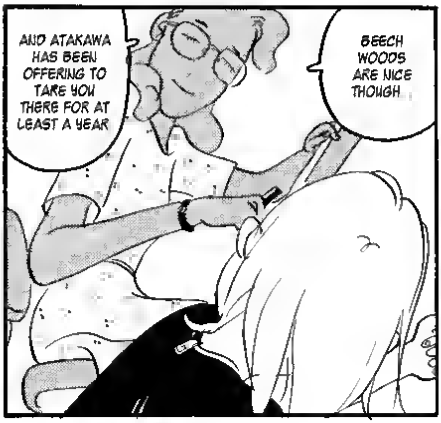
NO, I DIDN'T TAKE THEM OFF
YOU TOOK OFF YOUR SOCKS, YOU PUT THEM IN THE WASHING MACHINE
I TOOK OFF MY SHOES, THREW MY JACKET ON THE FLOOR, THEN MY PANTS, THREW THEM ON THE FLOOR TOO
HMM, YES, THAT'S IT, I WENT TO THE BATHROOM
MY... MY SOCKS
...MMM, I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER
HUH, WHAT?
OH YES
...MY SOCKS
AND DID YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGES?
DARN, I GOT IT! UNDER THE PHONE TABLE!
THEN, THE ANSWERING MACHINE MESSAGES
OH YES, I LISTENED TO THEM


WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T THINK
8
THAT'S WHERE I PUT IT!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I DROPPED A LEAD...
THAT I'VE FORGIVEN YOU, OK?
Hey, a cookie!
WELL IT'S A SHAME TO WASTE
WAIT, FORGET IT, I HAVE LOADS OF THEM



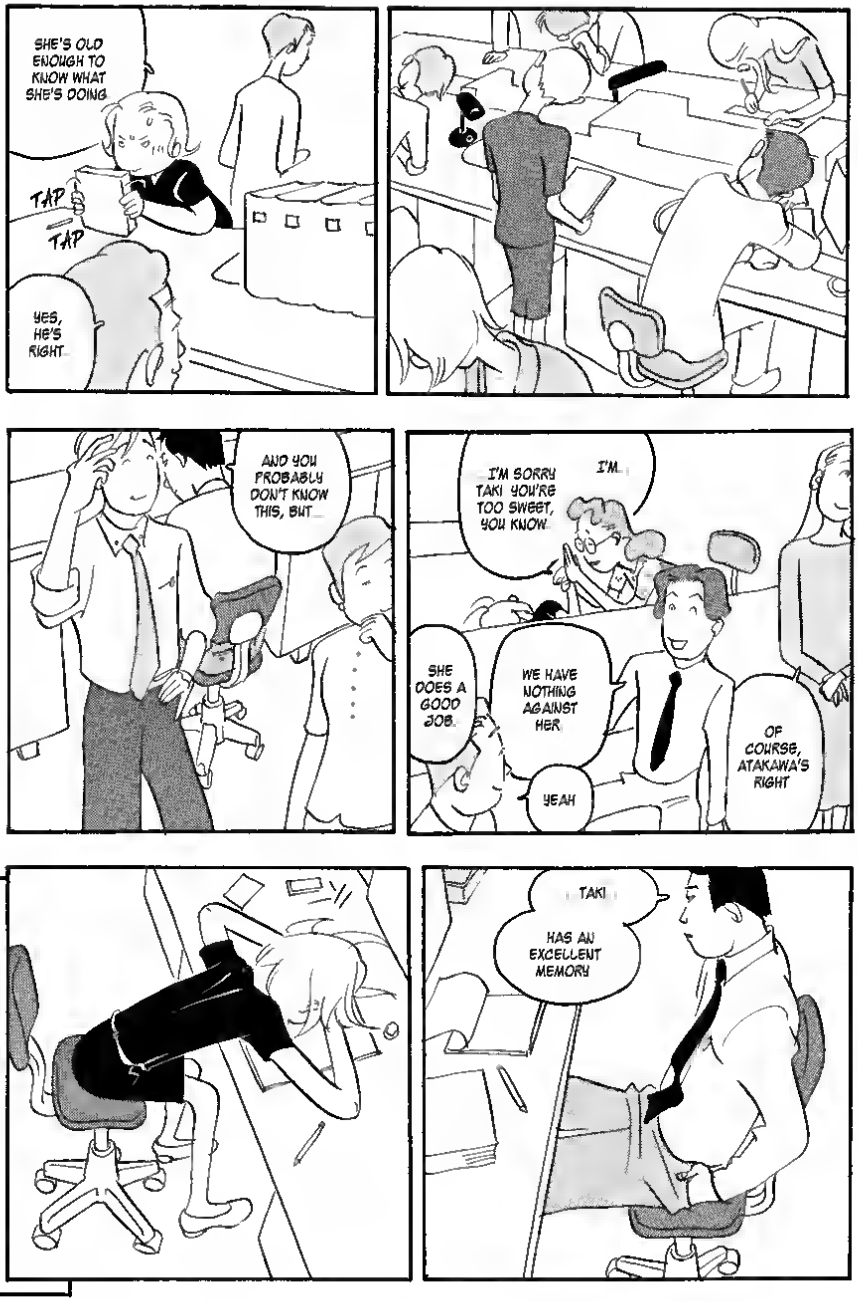
Admire my "Tea Ceremony" style!



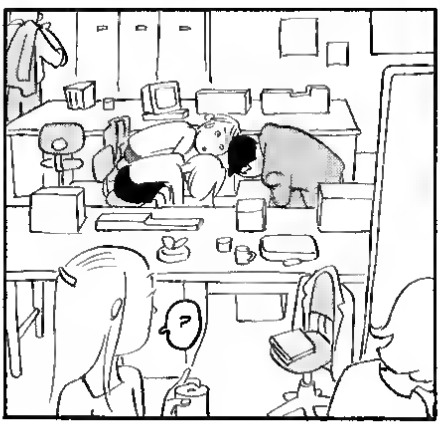

AND ATAKAWA HAS BEEN OFFERING TO TAKE YOU THERE FOR AT LEAST A YEAR
BEECH WOODS ARE NICE THOUGH

TAKI, I'VE HEARD YOU'RE NOT GOING CAMPING?

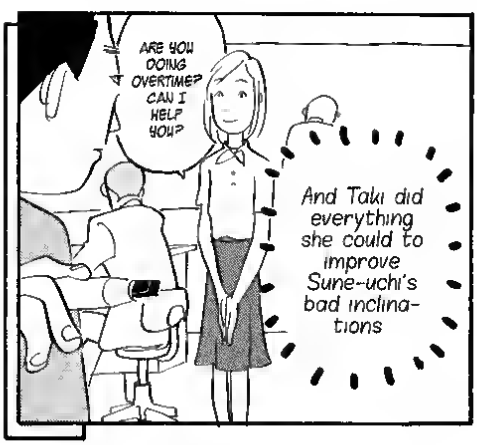
HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
IF YOU CONTINUE TO STAY IN THE SHADOWS, YOU'LL END UP AN OLD MAID!
HEY!
...YOU'LL GET A STOMACH-ACHE!
NOT THAT! YOU DON'T LIKE TO WASTE ANYTHING, OK, BUT THIS...
TAKI CAN DO WHATEVER SHE WANTS, CAN'T SHE!?
THAT'S ENOUGH!
SHINO-DA!!!

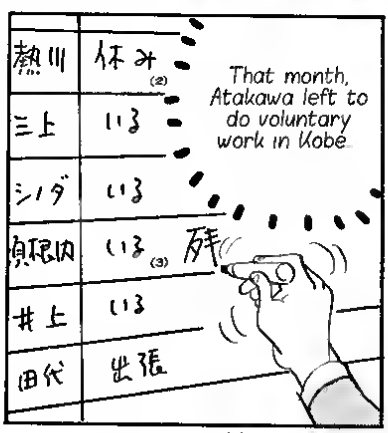

SHE'S OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING
TAP
TAP
YES, HE'S RIGHT
AND YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW THIS, BUT...
I'M...
I'M SORRY TAKI YOU'RE TOO SWEET, YOU KNOW
SHE DOES A GOOD JOB
WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST HER
YEAH
OF COURSE, ATAKAWA'S RIGHT
TAKI
HAS AN EXCELLENT MEMORY

(1) SIGN LANGUAGE

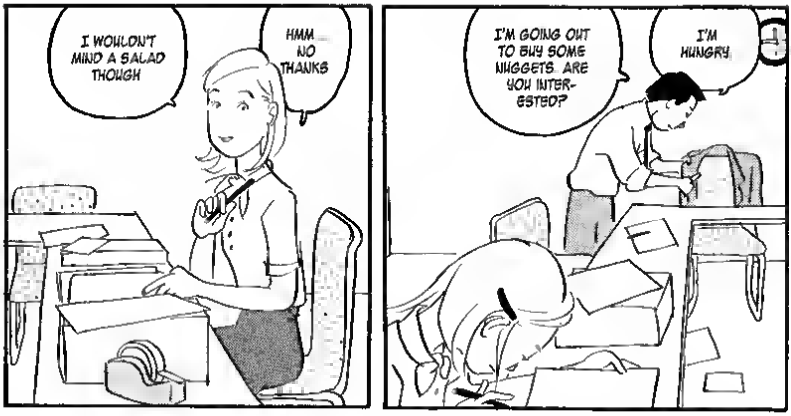


BUT TWO EMPLOYEES TAKING A DAY OFF AT THE SAME TIME IS AWKWARD FOR THE COMPANY
ATAKAWA, CAN YOU LEND ME SOME DOUGH? IT'S FOR A CHARITY

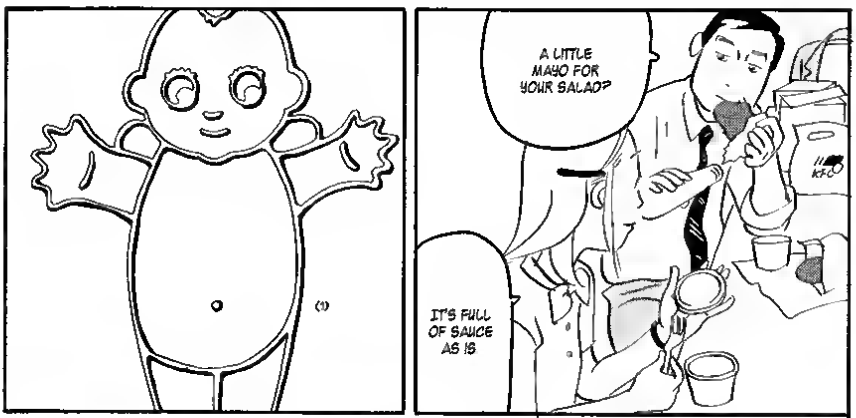




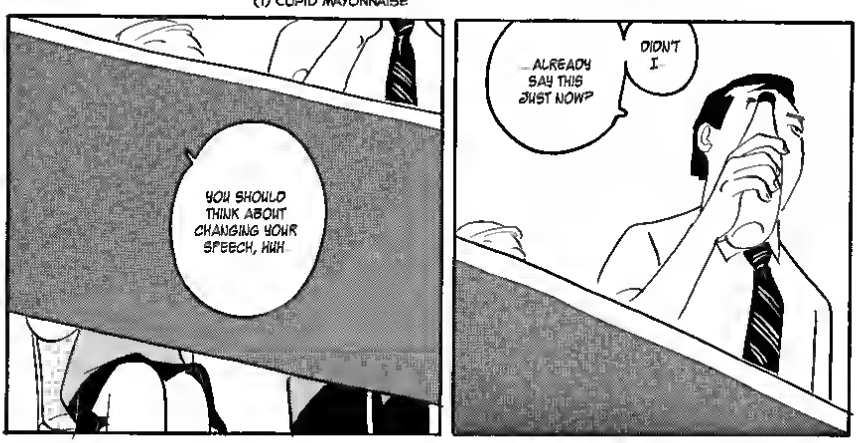
(2) ATAKAWA. DAY OFF
(3) SUNE-UCHI. OVERTIME

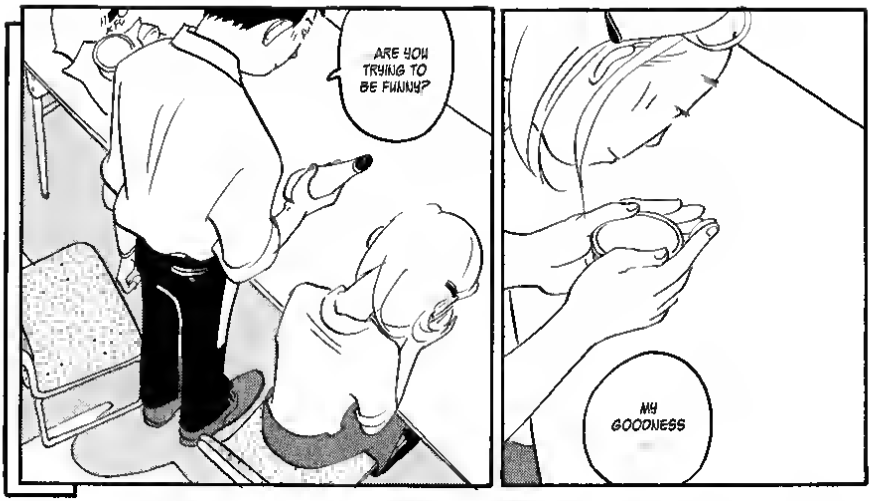


10



(1) CUPID MAYONNAISE

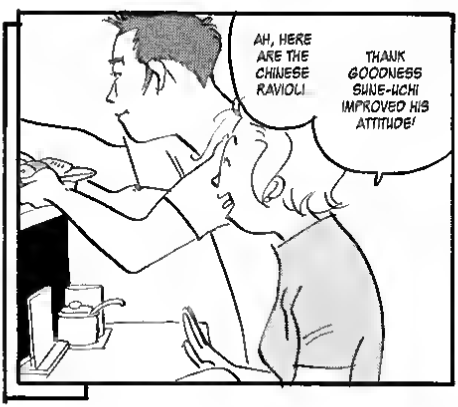


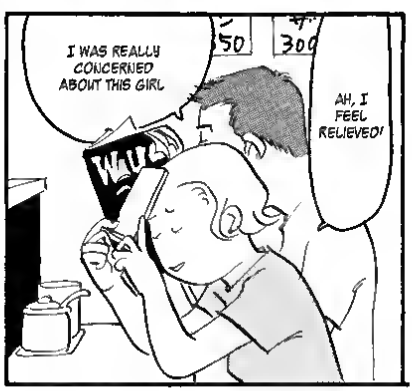

ARE YOU TRYING TO BE FUNNY?
MY GOODNESS

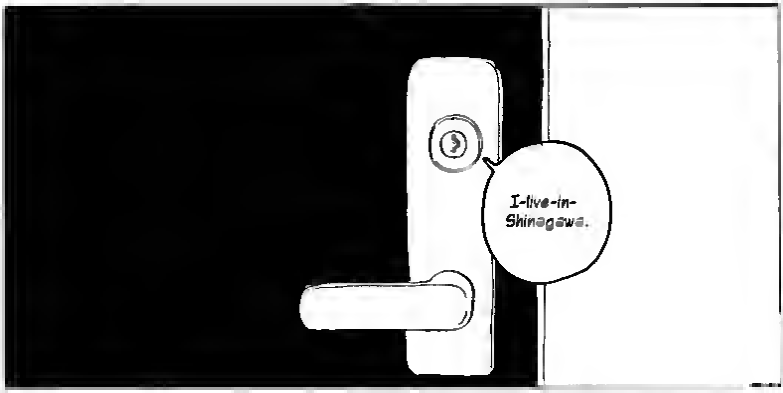
YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE YOUR RESCUE SKILLS, RIGHT ATAKAWA? NICE OPPORTUNITY TO ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

WHAT ELSE?
IS A ROPE ESSENTIAL? OK, I'LL ADD IT TO THE LIST.

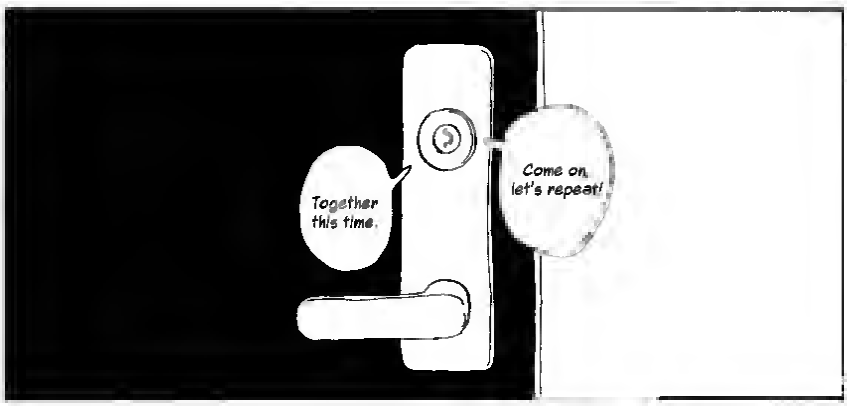
11

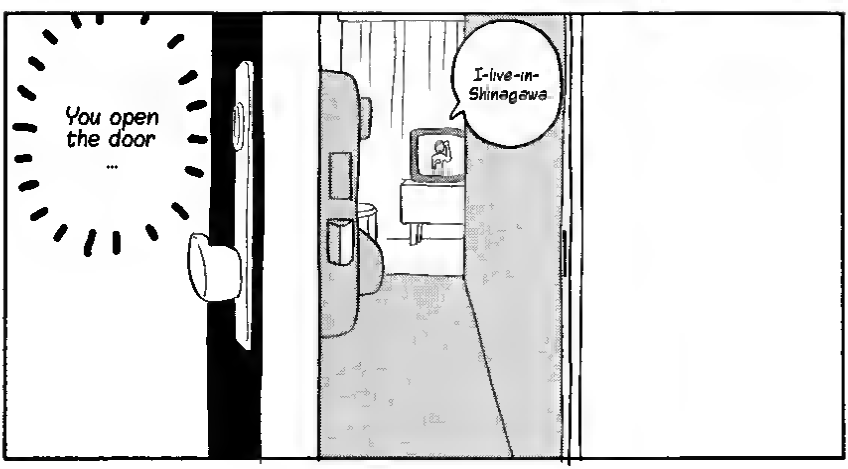

AH, HERE ARE THE CHINESE RAVIOLI
THANK GOODNESS SUWE-UCHI IMPROVED HIS ATTITUDE!


I WAS REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS GIRL
AH, I FEEL RELIEVED!

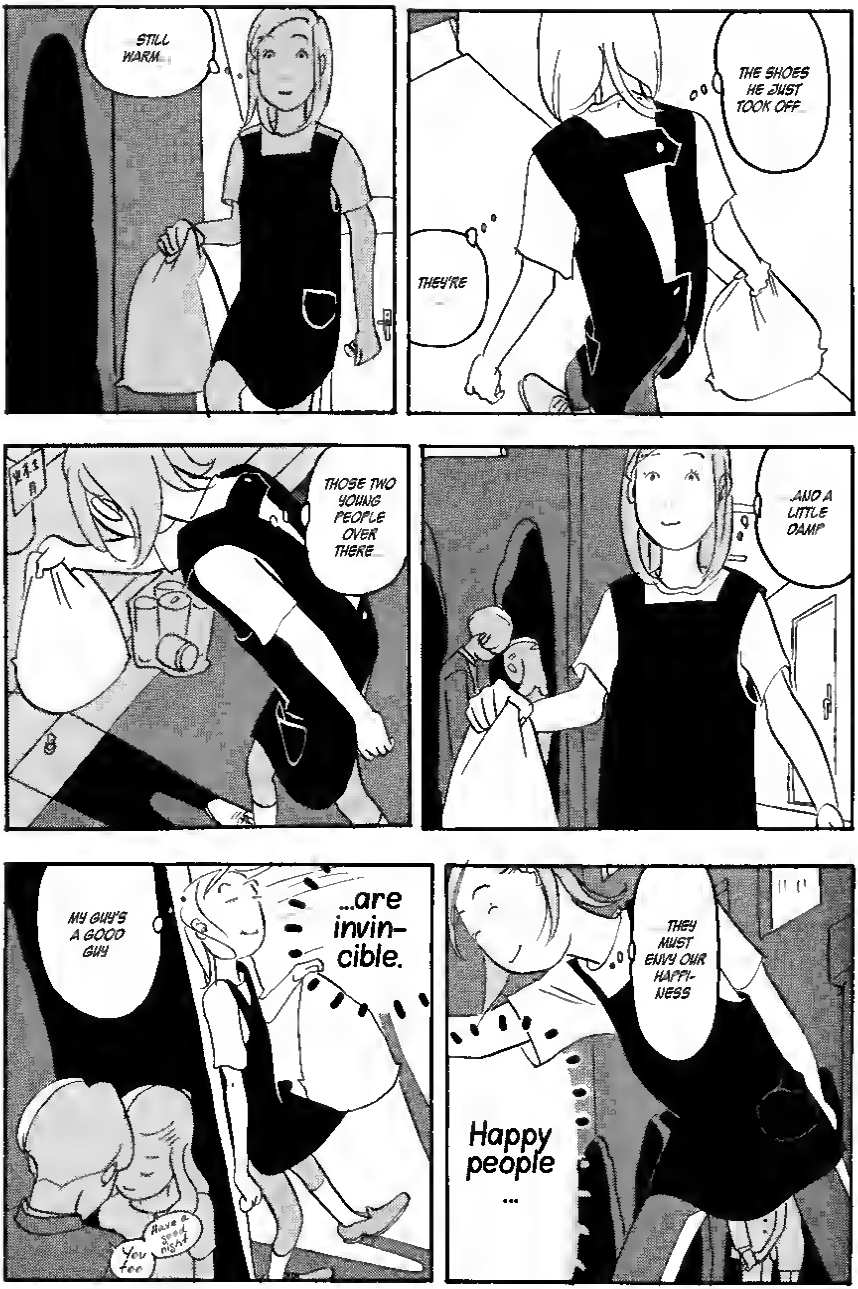

I-live-in-
Shinagawa.

12


Together
this time.
Come on,
let's repeat!


You open
the door
...
I-live-in-
Shinagawa.

Your pants too
You take off your shoes
Your throw your jacket on the floor
I take off my slippers I slip your shoes on
I pick up the jacket and hang it
I pick up the pants and hang them
THANKS! NEXT TIME, OK?
ARE YOU TAKING THE GARBAGE OUT, DARLING? I COULD'VE DONE IT
I open the door

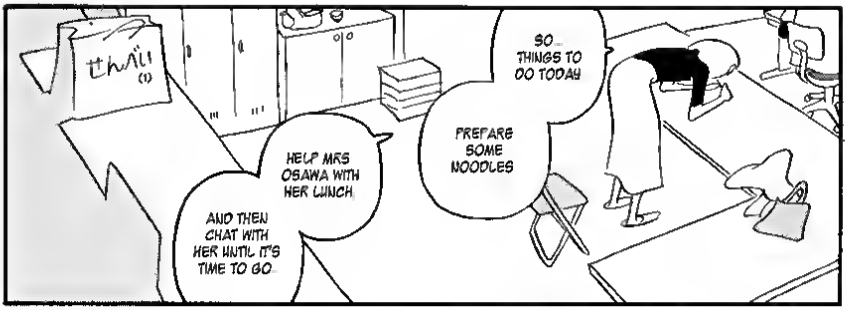

STILL WARM...
THE SHOES HE JUST TOOK OFF...
THEY'RE...
THOSE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE OVER THERE...
...AND A LITTLE DAMP
MY GUY'S A GOOD GUY
...are invincible.
Have a good night
You too
THEY MUST ENVY OUR HAPPINESS
Happy people...

(1) RAMEN NOODLES

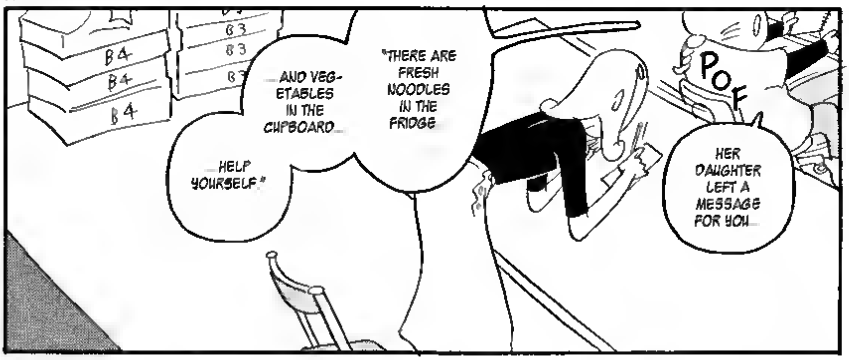
...Taki and Sune-uchi ended up getting married.

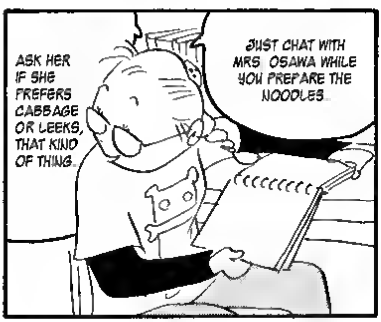
END

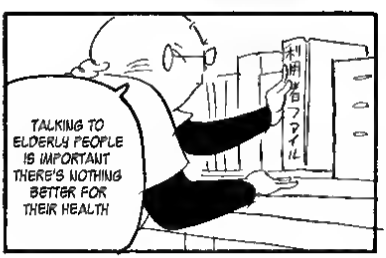
(1) BEST WISHES OF HAPPINESS FROM YOUR COLLEAGUES

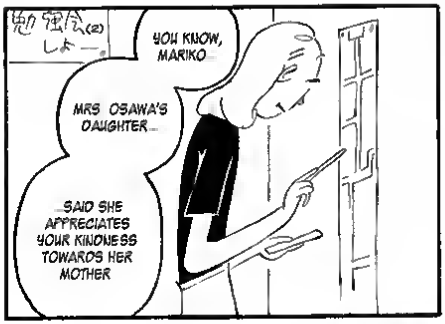


(1) RICE CRACKERS

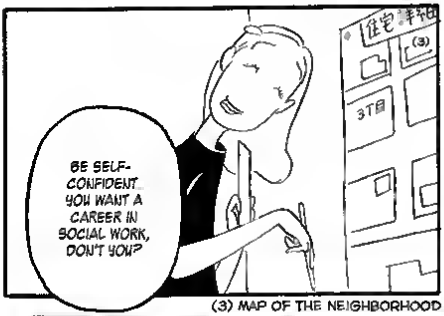

"THERE ARE FRESH NOODLES IN THE FRIDGE
AND VEGETABLES IN THE CUPBOARD
HELP YOURSELF."
POF
HER DAUGHTER LEFT A MESSAGE FOR YOU



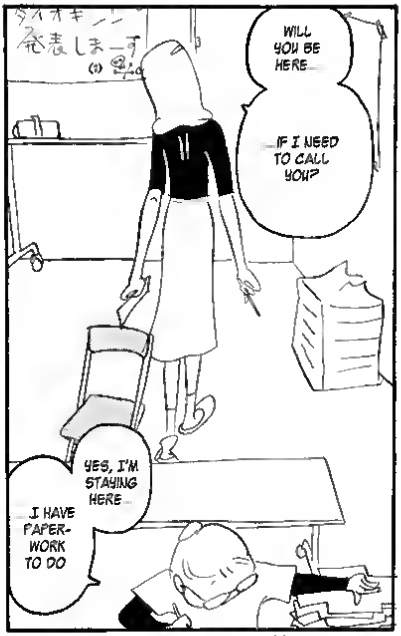




(2) LET'S GET THIS BUSINESS MEETING STARTED!

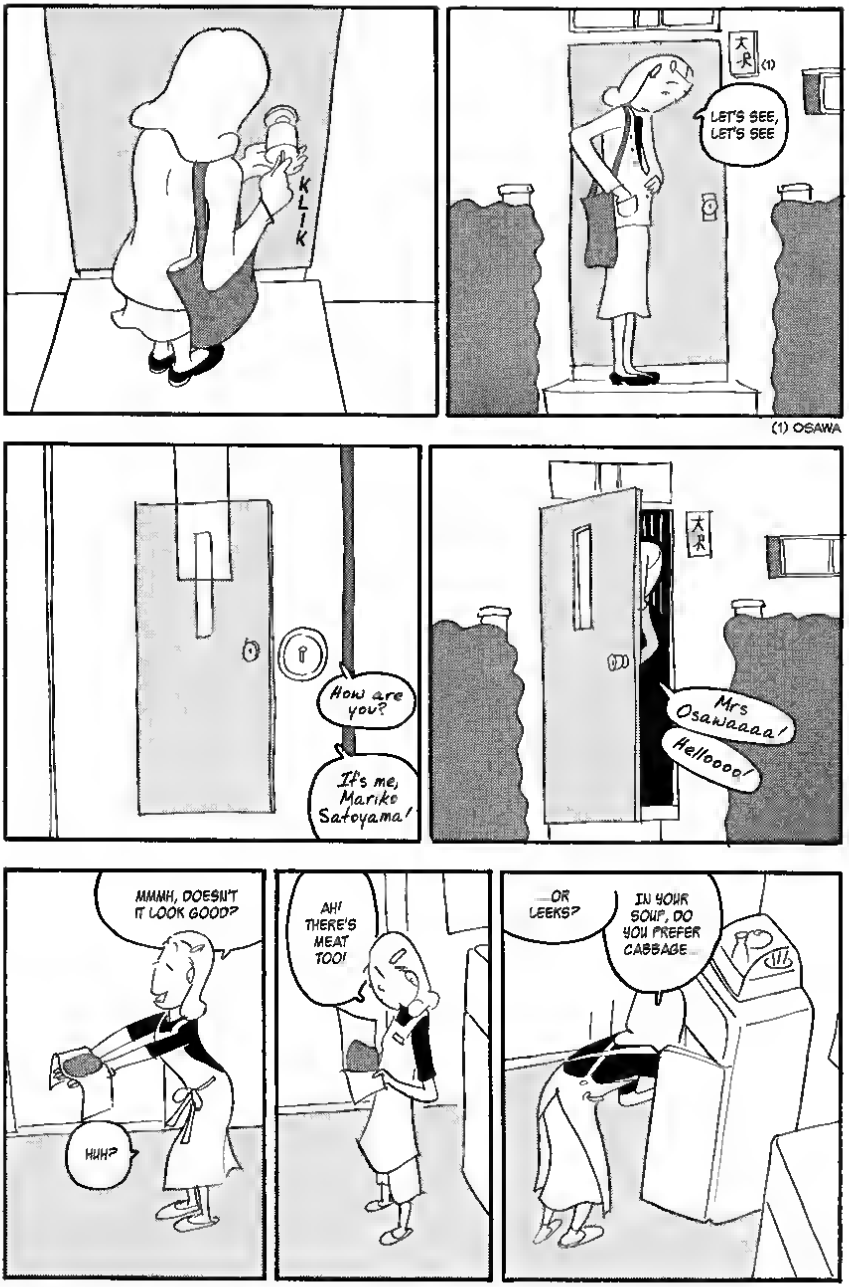


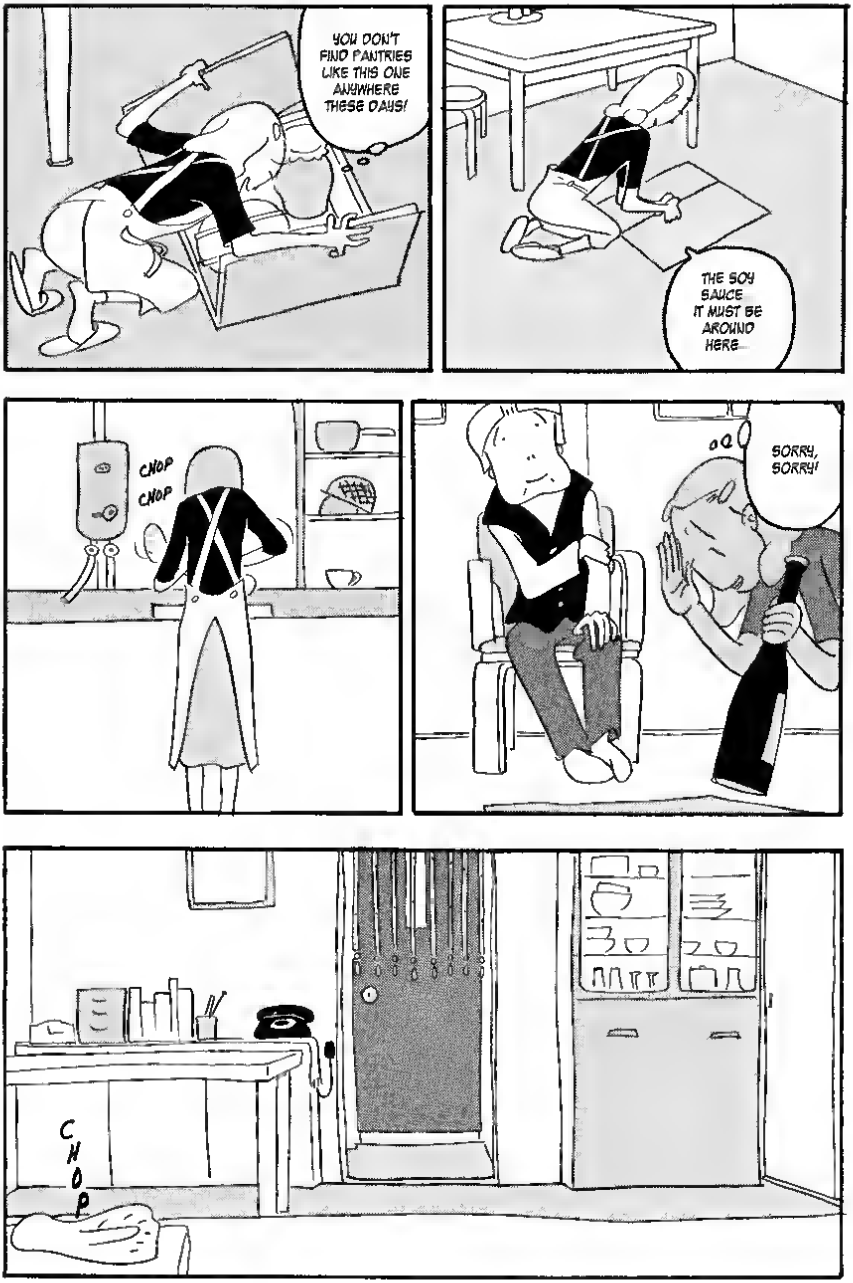
(3) MAP OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

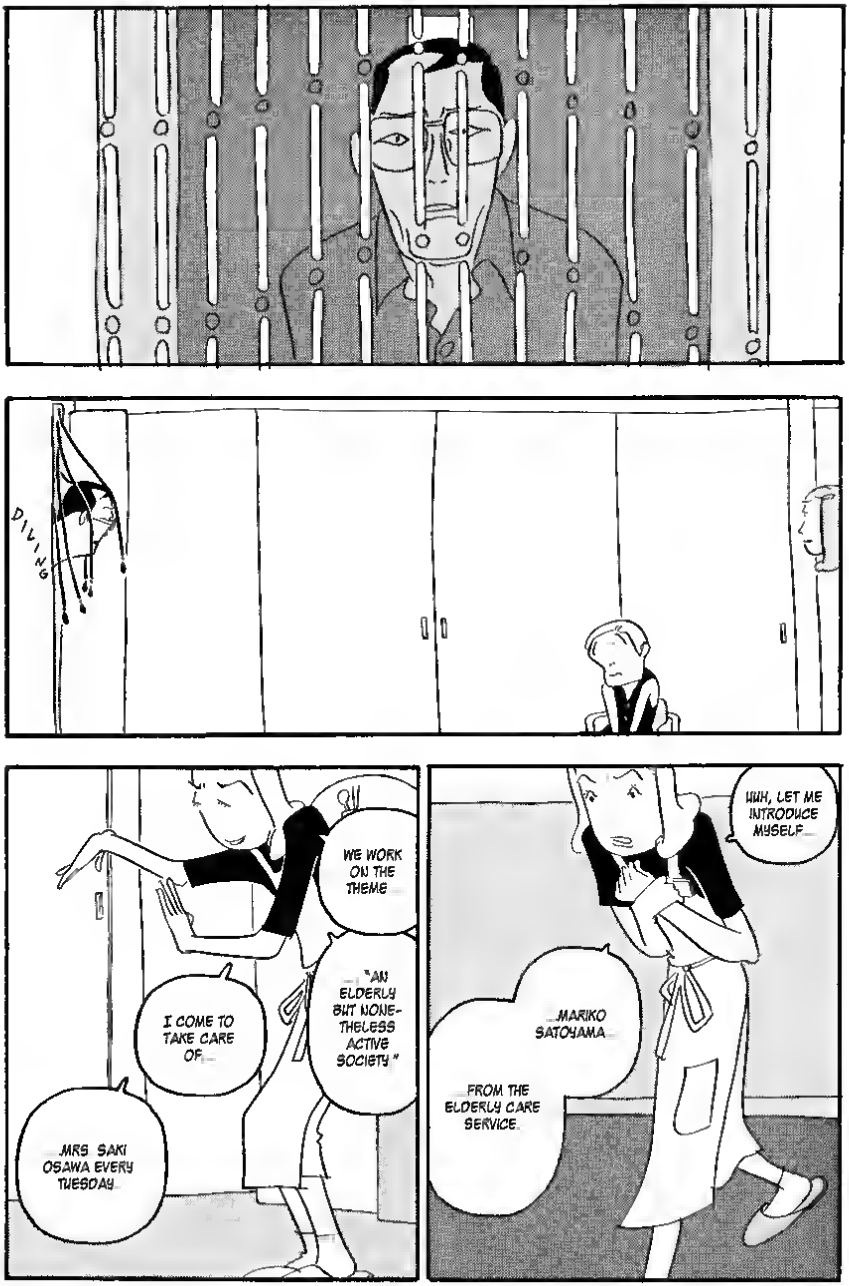


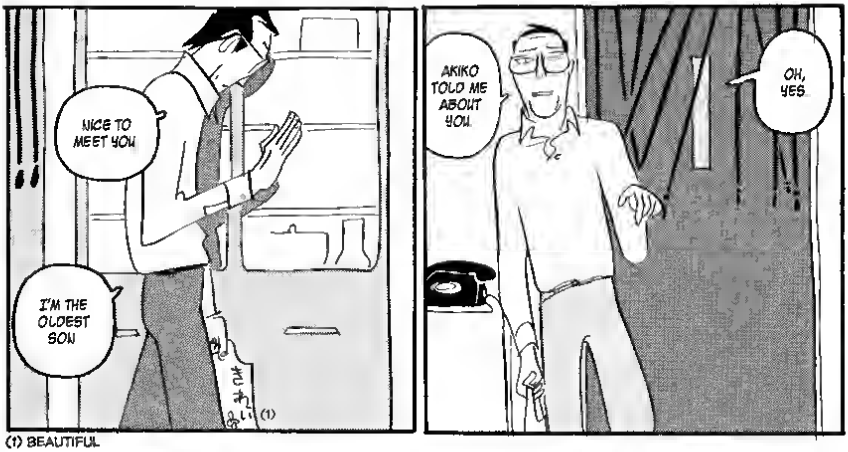
(1) DIOXIN ALERT!

I LIVE AT 2-2-6

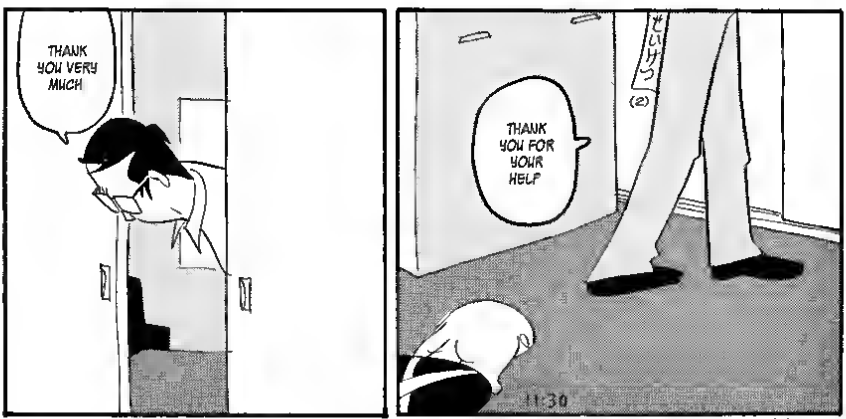

KLIK
大木 (1)
LET'S SEE, LET'S SEE
(1) OSAWA
How are you?
It's me, Mariko Satoyama!
大木
Mrs Osawaaaa!
Hellooo!
MMMH, DOESN'T IT LOOK GOOD?
HUH?
AH! THERE'S MEAT TOO!
—OR LEEKS?
IN YOUR SOUP, DO YOU PREFER CABBAGE...


YOU DON'T FIND PANTRIES LIKE THIS ONE ANYWHERE THESE DAYS!
THE SOY SAUCE IT MUST BE AROUND HERE...
CHOP CHOP
SORRY, SORRY!
CHOP

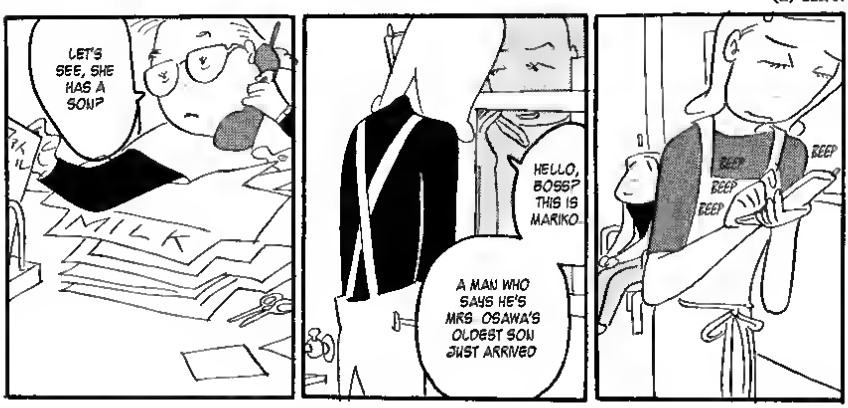

DIVING
MRS. SAKI OSAWA EVERY TUESDAY.
I COME TO TAKE CARE OF...
WE WORK ON THE THEME
"AN ELDERLY BUT NONE-THELESS ACTIVE SOCIETY"
MARIKO SATOYAMA
FROM THE ELDERLY CARE SERVICE.
UUH, LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF...

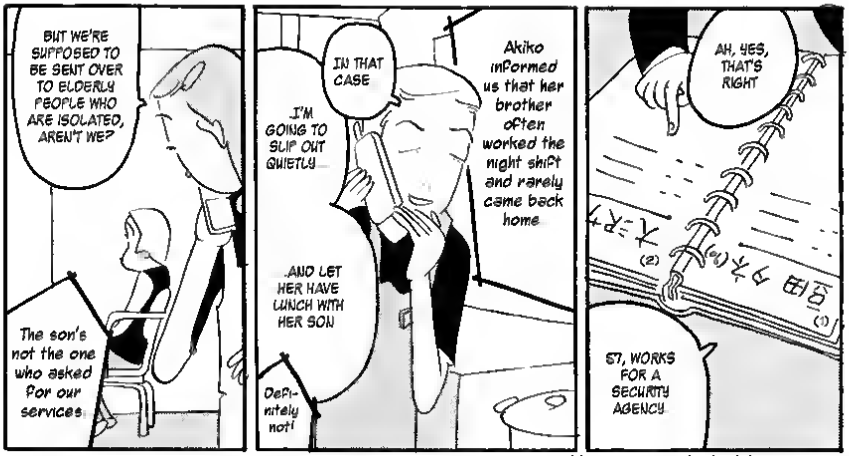


(1) BEAUTIFUL

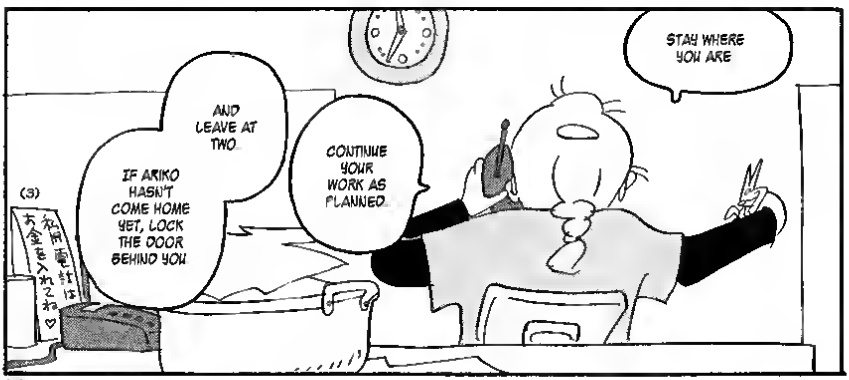


(2) CLEAN

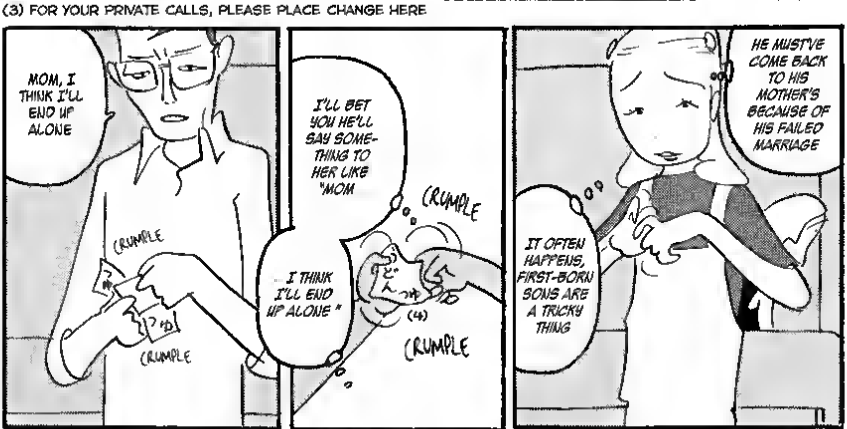



BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SENT OVER TO ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO ARE ISOLATED, AREN'T WE?
The son's not the one who asked for our services
IN THAT CASE
I'M GOING TO SLIP OUT QUIETLY
...AND LET HER HAVE LUNCH WITH HER SON
DeFi-nitely not!
Akiko informed us that her brother often worked the night shift and rarely came back home
AH, YES, THAT'S RIGHT
(1)
(2)
ST, WORKS FOR A SECURITY AGENCY

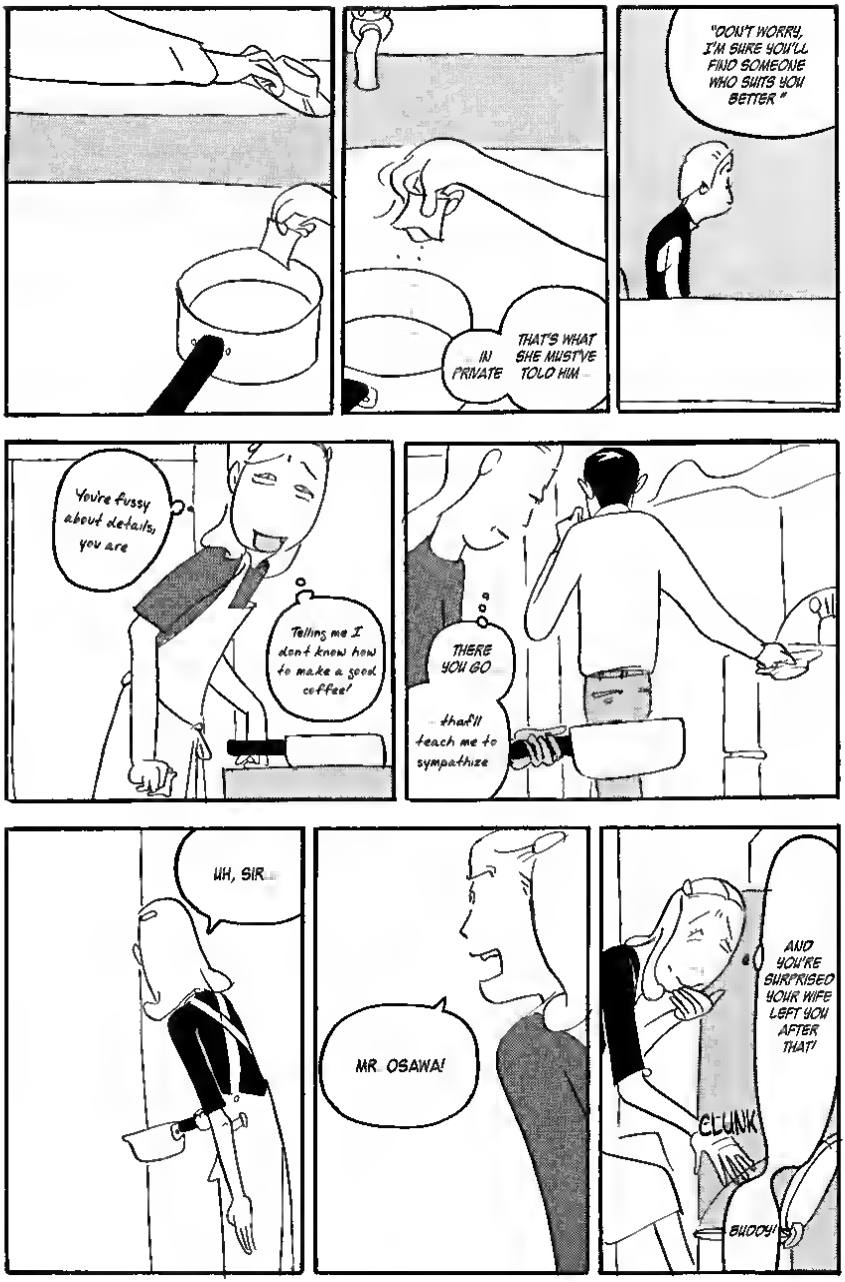
(1) TANE TAMETA (90) (2) SAKI OSAWA

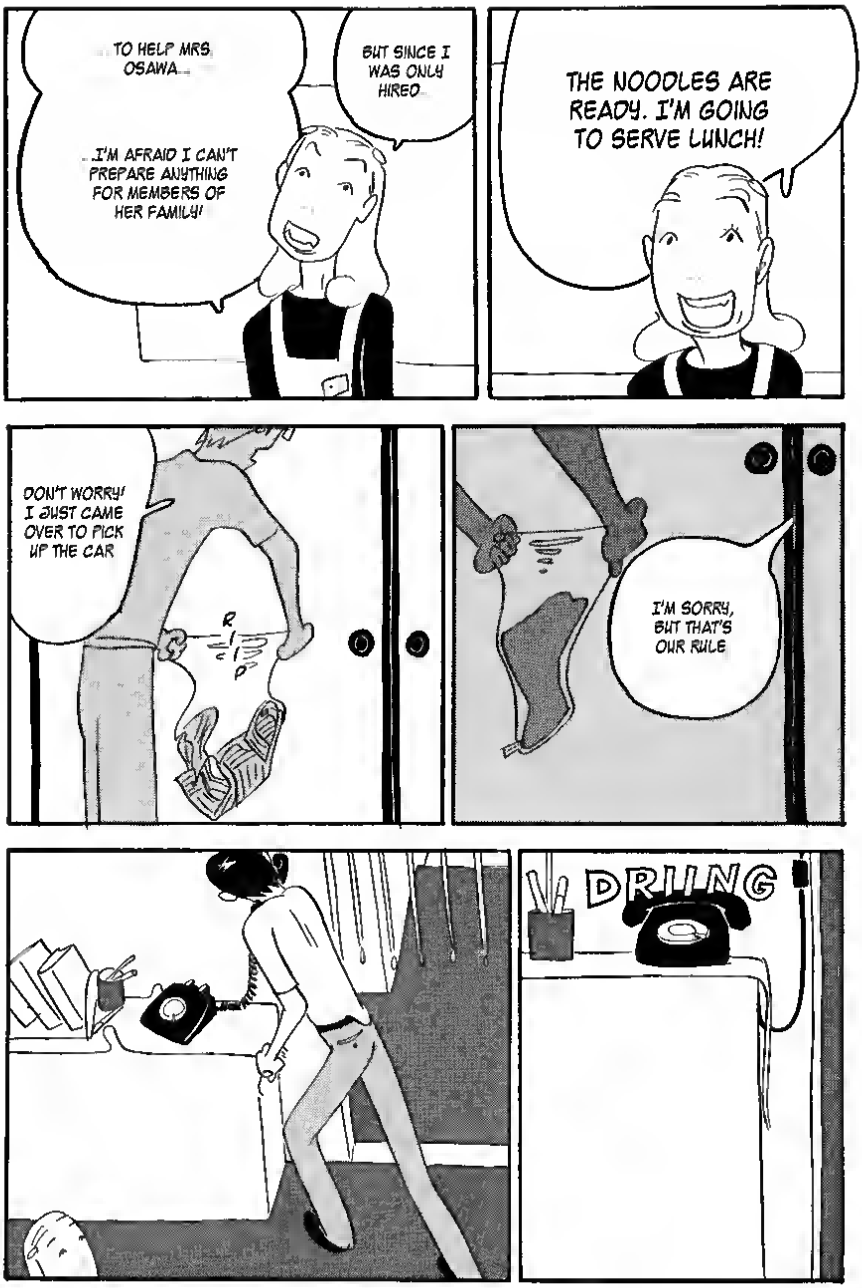


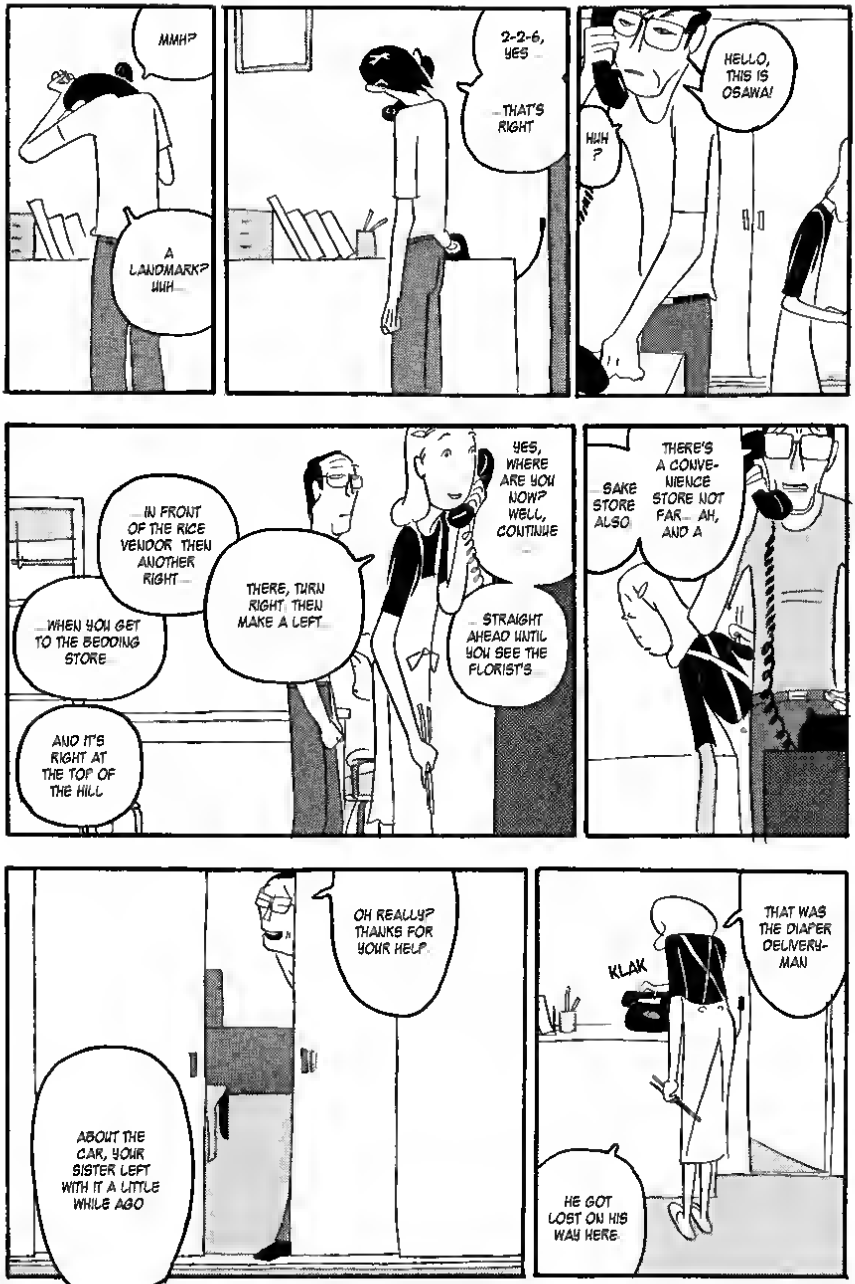
(3) FOR YOUR PRIVATE CALLS, PLEASE PLACE CHANGE HERE


MOM, I THINK I'LL END UP ALONE
CRUMPLE
CRUMPLE
I'LL BET YOU HE'LL SAY SOMETHING TO HER LIKE "MOM
...I THINK I'LL END UP ALONE"
CRUMPLE
(4)
CRUMPLE
HE MUST'VE COME BACK TO HIS MOTHER'S BECAUSE OF HIS FAILED MARRIAGE
IT OFTEN HAPPENS, FIRST-BORN SONS ARE A TRICKY THING

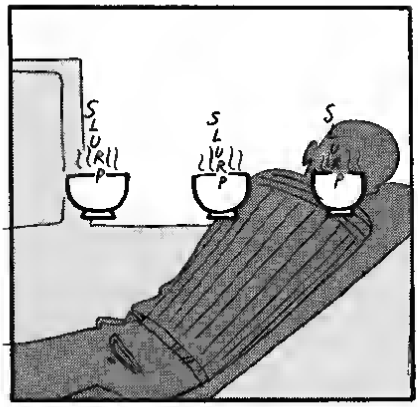
(4) NOODLE BROTH

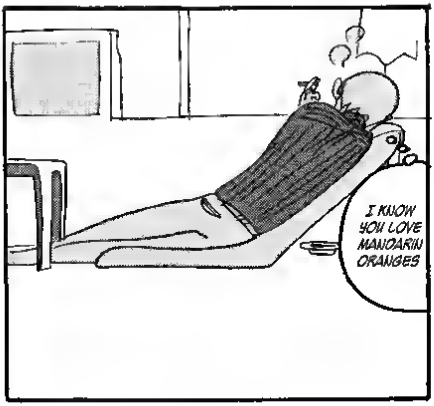

"DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND SOMEONE WHO SUITS YOU BETTER."
THAT'S WHAT SHE MUST'VE TOLD HIM IN PRIVATE
You're fussy about details, you are
Telling me I don't know how to make a good coffee!
THERE YOU GO
...that'll teach me to sympathize
UH, SIR...
MR. OSAWA!
AND YOU'RE SURPRISED YOUR WIFE LEFT YOU AFTER THAT!
CLUNK
BUDDY!


TO HELP MRS. OSAWA...
...I'M AFRAID I CAN'T PREPARE ANYTHING FOR MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY!
BUT SINCE I WAS ONLY HIRED...
THE NOODLES ARE READY. I'M GOING TO SERVE LUNCH!
DON'T WORRY! I JUST CAME OVER TO PICK UP THE CAR
RIP
I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S OUR RULE
DRIING

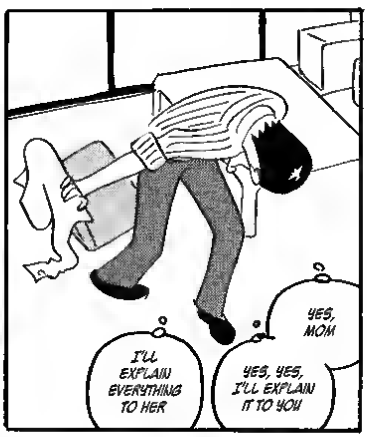

MMH?
A LANDMARK? UUH...
2-2-6, YES
...THAT'S RIGHT
HELLO, THIS IS OSAWA!
HUH?
YES, WHERE ARE YOU NOW? WELL, CONTINUE
...IN FRONT OF THE RICE VENDOR THEN ANOTHER RIGHT...
...WHEN YOU GET TO THE BEDDING STORE...
THERE, TURN RIGHT THEN MAKE A LEFT...
AND IT'S RIGHT AT THE TOP OF THE HILL
...STRAIGHT AHEAD UNTIL YOU SEE THE FLORIST'S...
...SAKE STORE ALSO
THERE'S A CONVE-NIENCE STORE NOT FAR... AH, AND A
OH REALLY? THANKS FOR YOUR HELP
ABOUT THE CAR, YOUR SISTER LEFT WITH IT A LITTLE WHILE AGO
KLAK
THAT WAS THE DIAPER DELIVERY-MAN
HE GOT LOST ON HIS WAY HERE

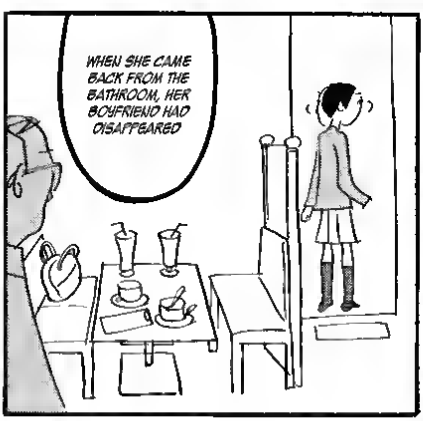
SHE'LL BE HOME AT TWO
AS LONG AS I GET TO WORK ON TIME TONIGHT AT TEN
IF WE LEAVE AT TWO, IT'S OK
NO RUSH
NO RUSH
12 Do
MMMH
OR THE ORANGE GROVE, THAT WOULDN'T BE BAD EITHER
IF THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, ENOSHIMA WILL HAVE TO DO
THAT GIVES US ENOUGH TIME TO GO TO HAKONE


SLURP
SLURP
S


I KNOW YOU LOVE MANDARIN ORANGES

HOW I WITNESSED AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOLERS

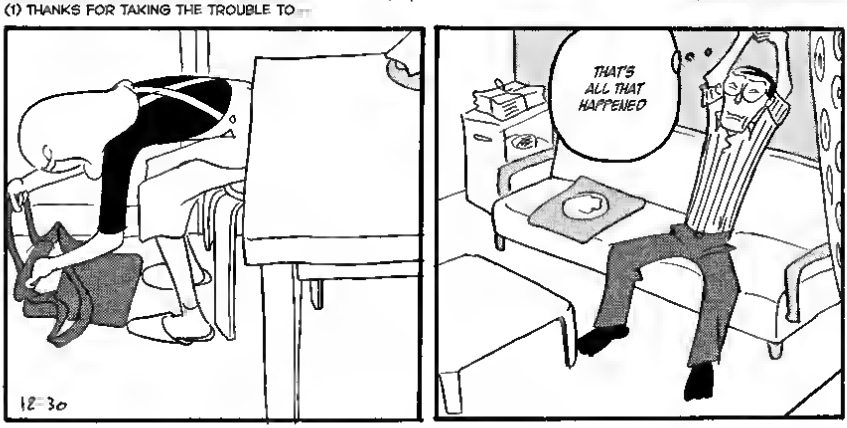

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO HER
YES, YES, I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU
YES, MOM

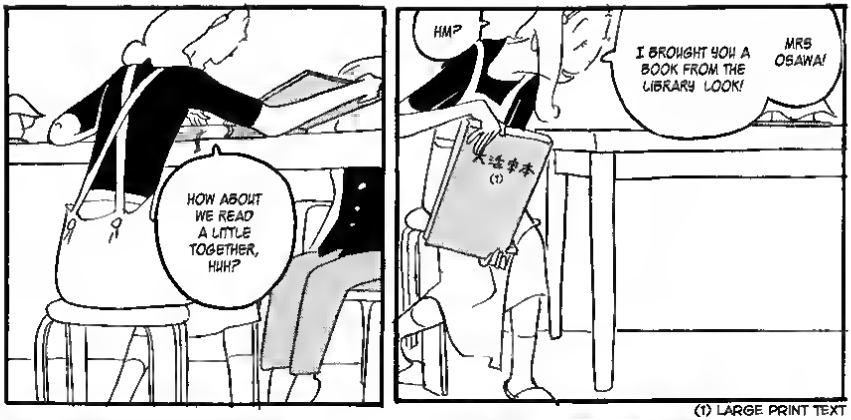

WHEN SHE CAME BACK FROM THE BATHROOM, HER BOYFRIEND HAD DISAPPEARED

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! YOU'RE REALLY PUSHING IT!

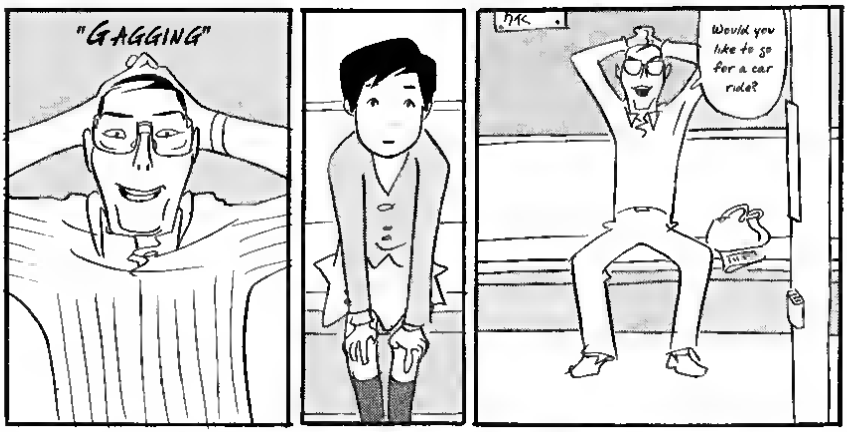
THAT SHE SHOULD CHOOSE HER FRIENDS MORE CAREFULLY
SO I TOLD HER
CHIRP
CHIRP
(1)
THERE YOU GO, THAT'S ALL
COFF
SHE CAUGHT UP WITH ME AS I WALKED OUT OF THE CAFE
SHE WANTED MY ADDRESS, SO SHE COULD PAY ME BACK WITH A MONEY ORDER
THAT'LL BE 3400 YEN
I PAID THEIR CHECK

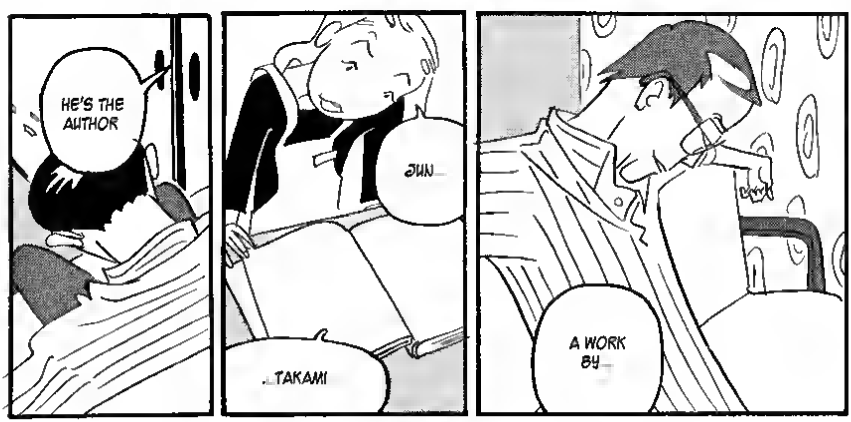
(1) THANKS FOR TAKING THE TROUBLE TO...

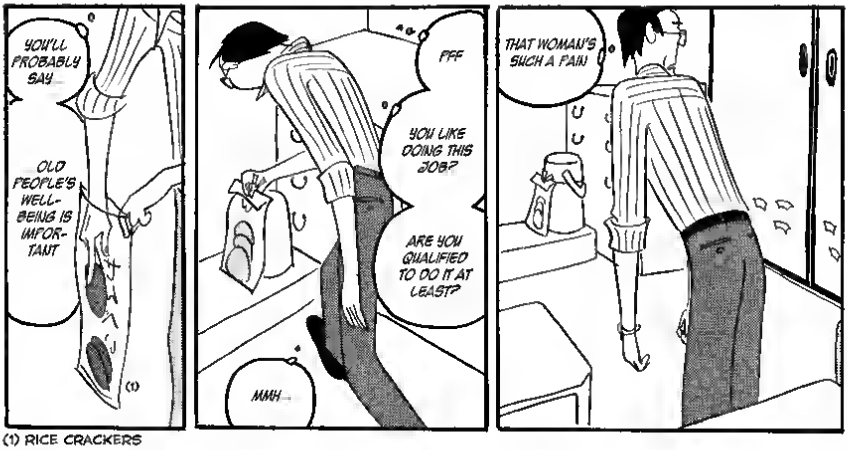




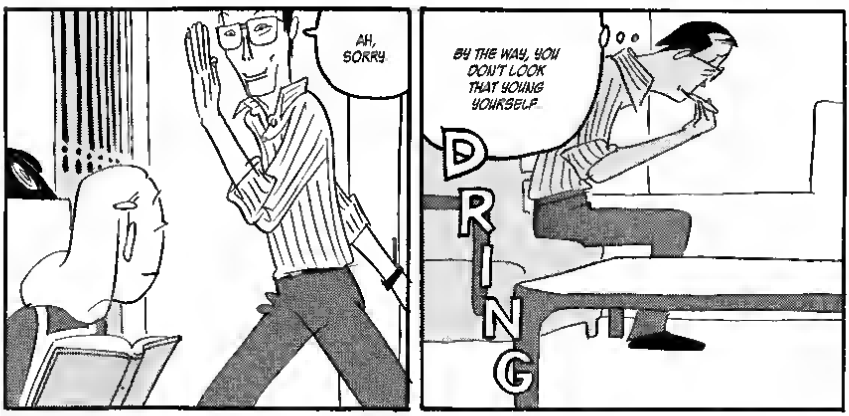
(1) LARGE PRINT TEXT

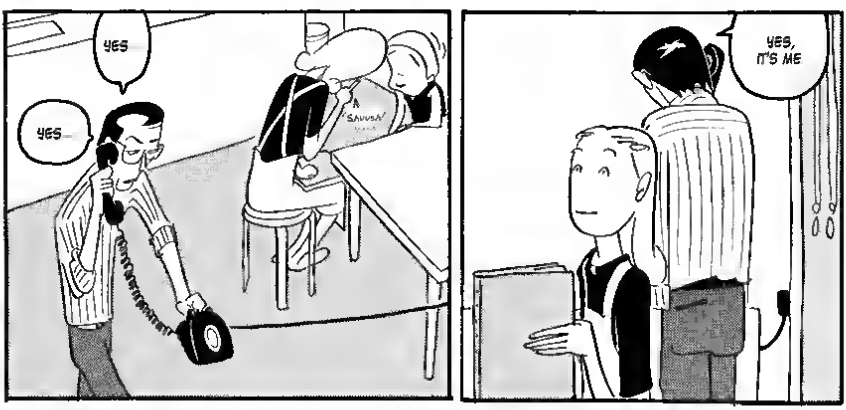


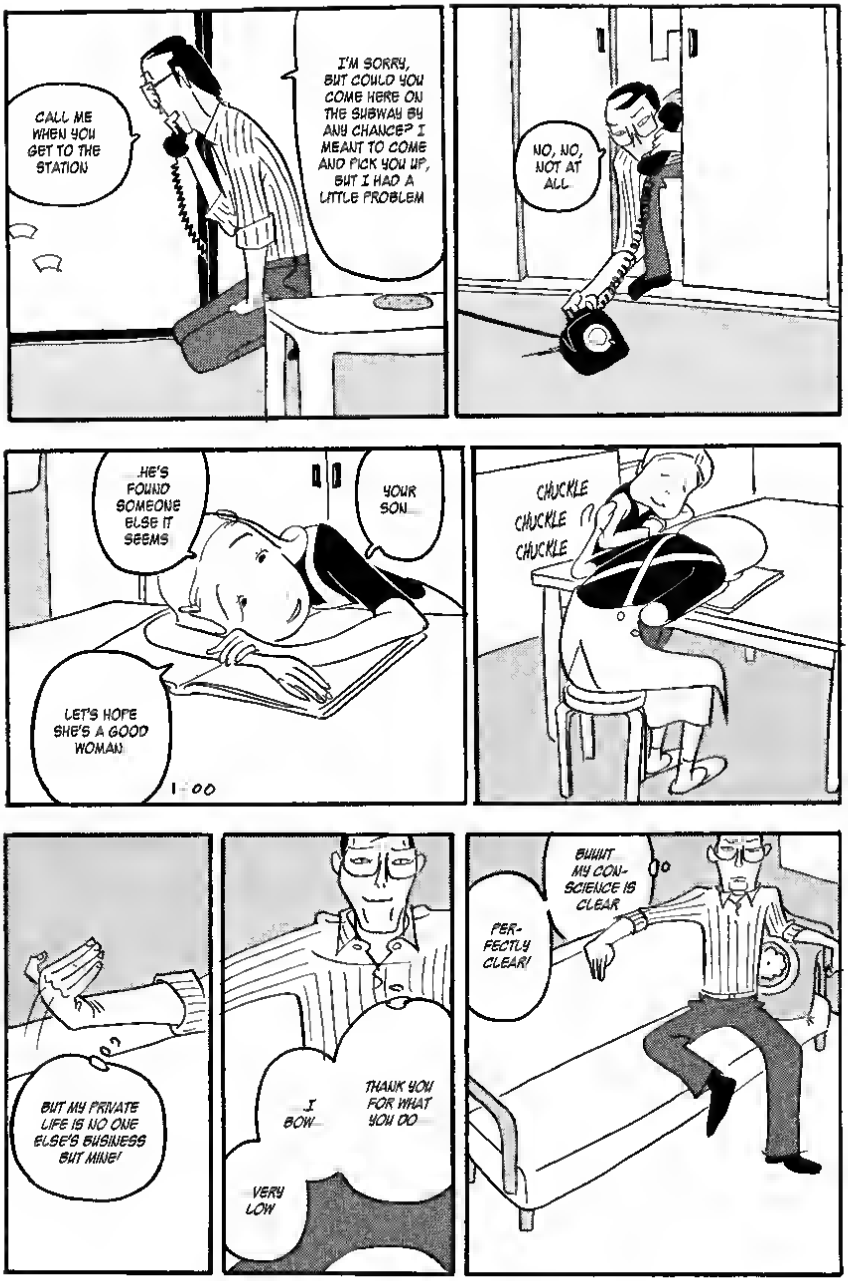


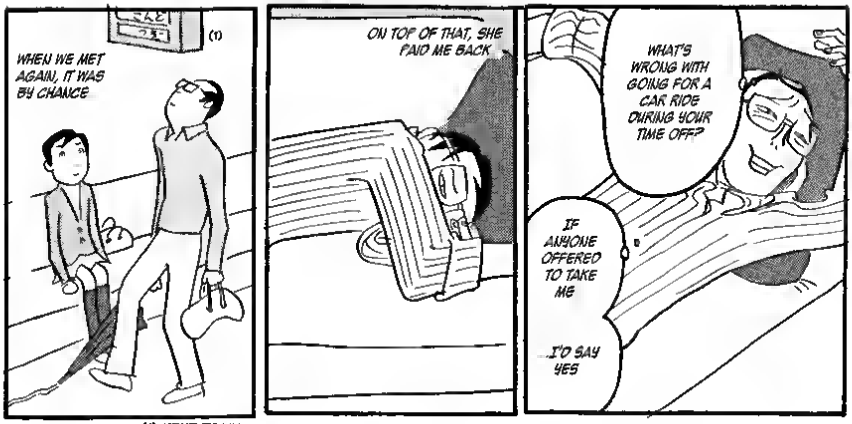

YOU'LL PROBABLY SAY...
OLD PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING IS IMPORTANT
FFF
YOU LIKE DOING THIS JOB?
ARE YOU QUALIFIED TO DO IT AT LEAST?
MMH...
THAT WOMAN'S SUCH A PAIN

(1) RICE CRACKERS

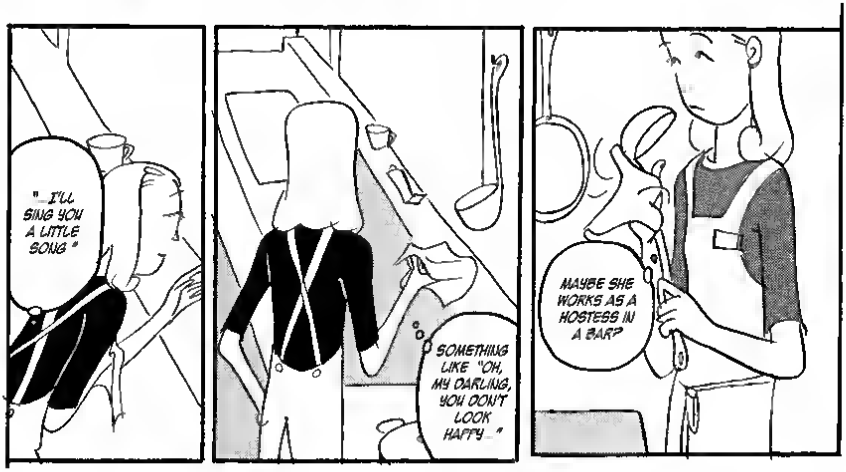




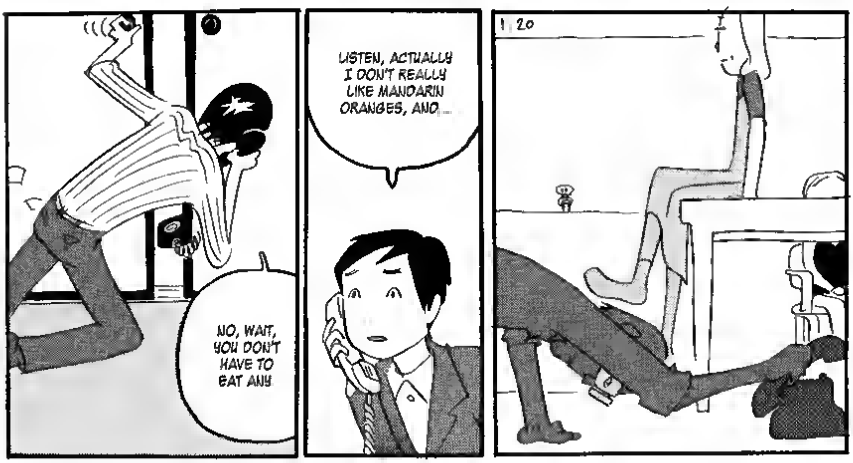

CALL ME WHEN YOU GET TO THE STATION
I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU COME HERE ON THE SUBWAY BY ANY CHANCE? I MEANT TO COME AND PICK YOU UP, BUT I HAD A LITTLE PROBLEM
NO, NO, NOT AT ALL
HE'S FOUND SOMEONE ELSE IT SEEMS
YOUR SON
LET'S HOPE SHE'S A GOOD WOMAN
1-00
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
BUT MY PRIVATE LIFE IS NO ONE ELSE'S BUSINESS BUT MINE!
I BOW... VERY LOW
THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO
BUHUT MY CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR
PERFECTLY CLEAR!


(1)
WHEN WE MET AGAIN, IT WAS BY CHANCE
ON TOP OF THAT, SHE PAID ME BACK
WHAT'S WRONG WITH GOING FOR A CAR RIDE DURING YOUR TIME OFF?
IF ANYONE OFFERED TO TAKE ME
I'D SAY YES
(1) NEXT TRAIN...

GOING TO THE THERMAL SPRINGS WOULD BE NICE TOO
MOM! COME ON!
EVEN ON MY OWN, I'D LOVE TO GO
THE AFTERNOON ON THE BEACH


" I'LL SING YOU A LITTLE SONG "
SOMETHING LIKE "OH, MY DARLING, YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY "
MAYBE SHE WORKS AS A HOSTESS IN A BAR?

(1) WHITE TOOTHPASTE

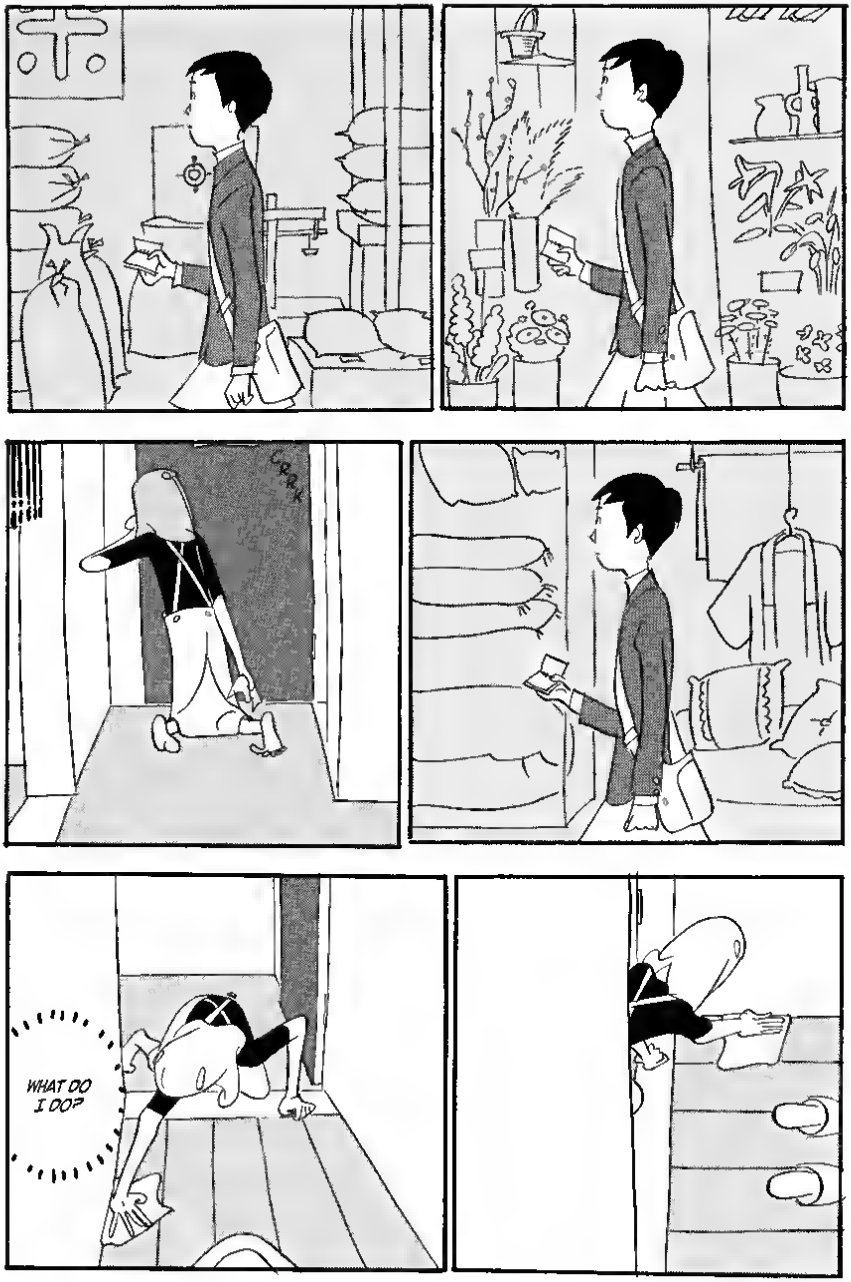


IT'S AN ANGEL WHO...
IT LOOKS LIKE A LOTUS FLOWER STEM COMING DOWN FROM THE SKY
I'M TELLING YOU, WAIT FOR ME AT THE STATION
A COBWEB HANGING FROM THE CEILING!
MRS OSAWA, LOOK, THERE!
THE BASTARD, HE'S LEAVING...
...AND ABANDONING HIS OLD MOTHER!

(4) MAP OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

(1) 10 MINUTES BY FOOT
(2) SOUTH EXIT — 2 MINUTES
(3) IN FRONT OF THE STATION

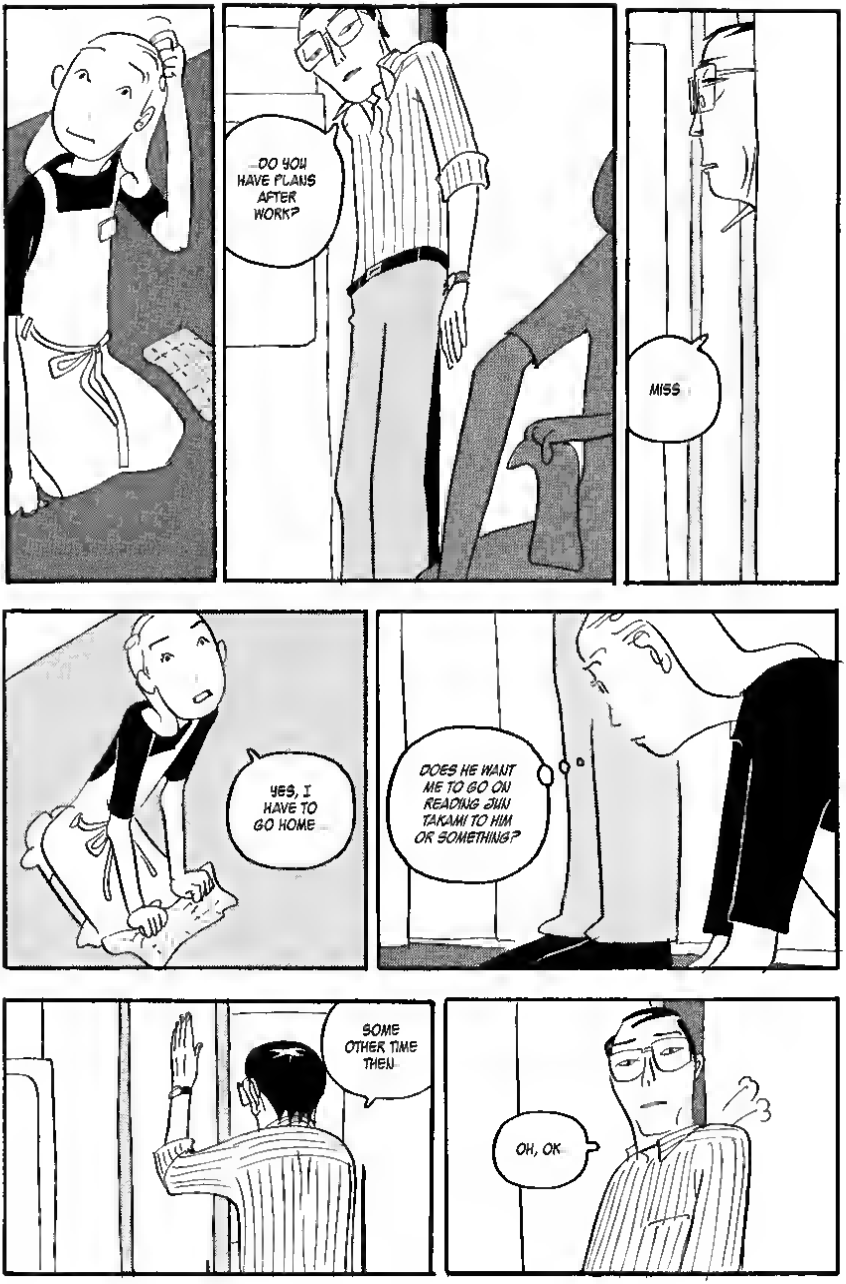
WASSA-MATTER? WASSA-MATTER?
DO YOU NEED TO PEE, MRS OSAWA?
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
DISASTER!
(1)
(1) SOY SAUCE
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO, HUH?
WHAT IF SHE FALLS DEAD?

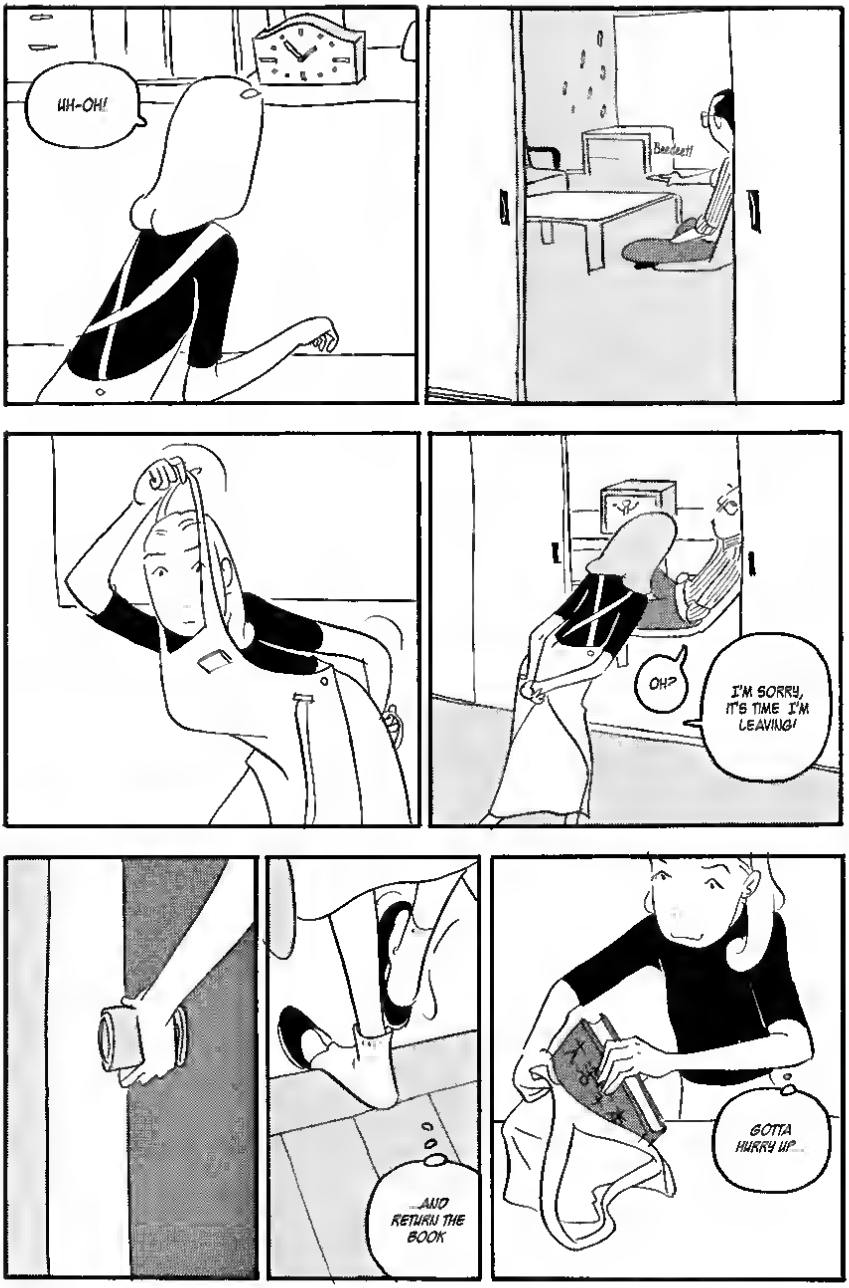

CRRK
WHAT DO I DO?

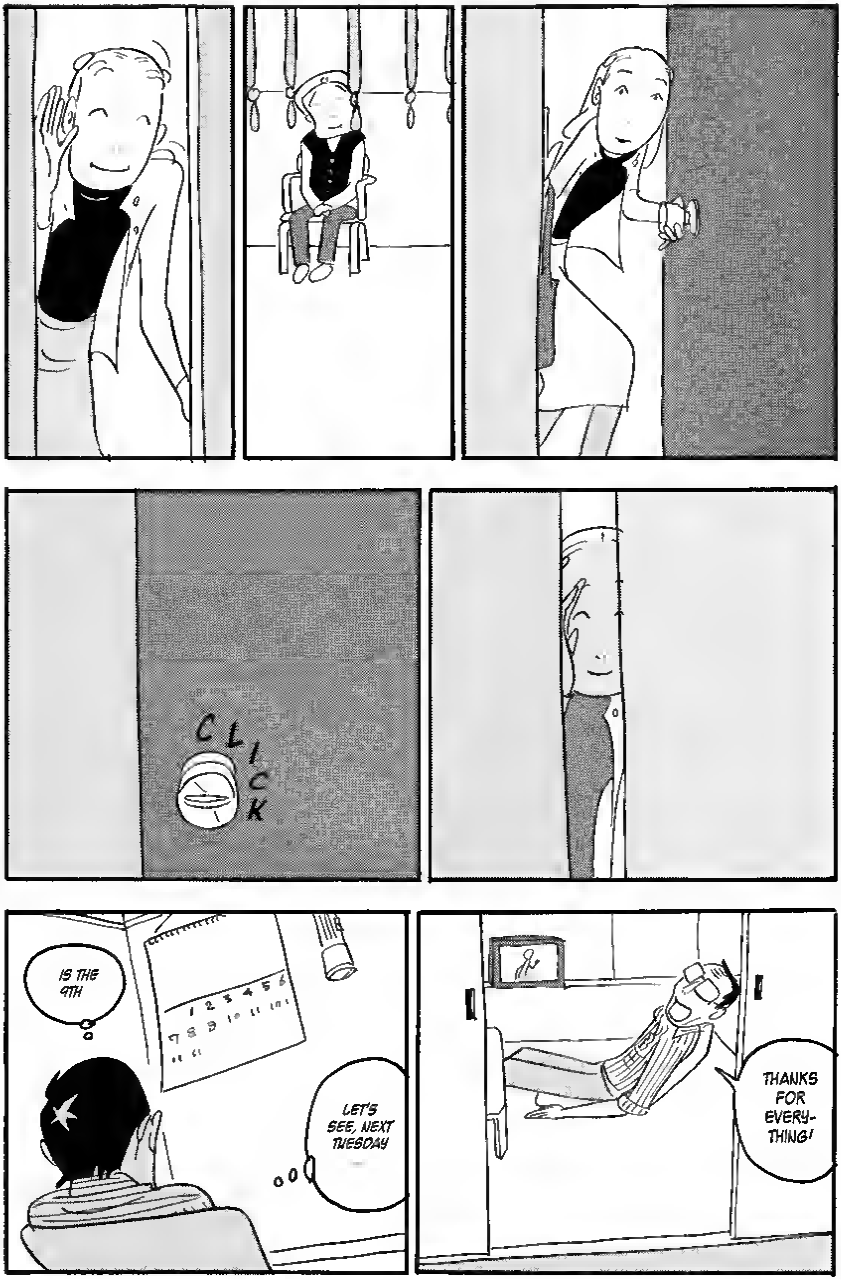
ISN'T HE...
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S WITH THE DIAPER DELIVERYMAN?
...HERE YET?
GRRRR
his wife!
That's his wife!
THAT'S HIS WIFE!
SHOOT, HIS WIFE!

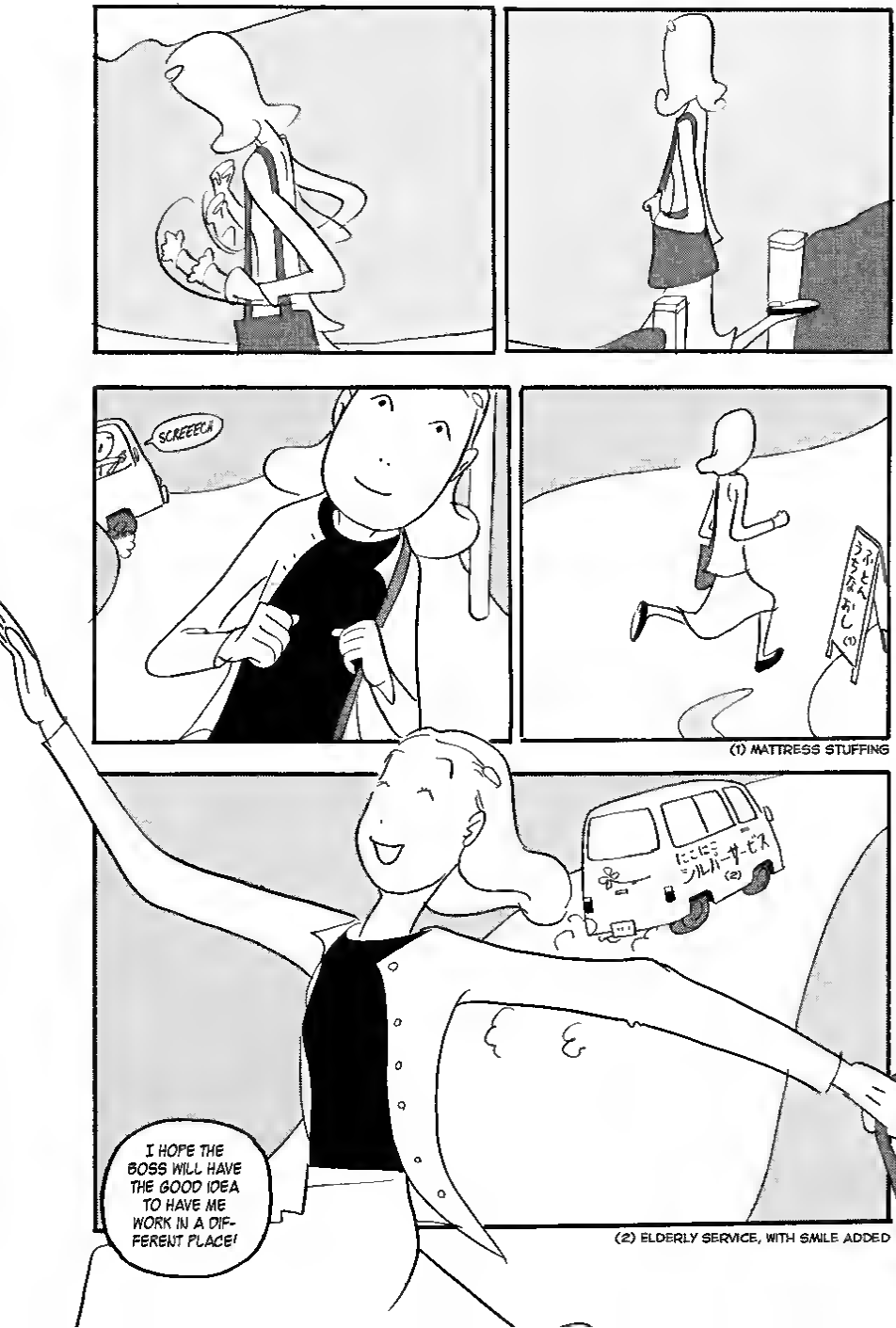
SHE ISN'T HERE YET
Wife
His wife
Wife
AT LEAST SHE STILL HAS A FUTURE
AH, SHE'S YOUNG
TOO YOUNG FOR ME
Scrub!
Scrub!
Scrub!
SHE'S GOING TO DO THAT FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE
THE FOOL...
NOT LIKE THAT OTHER ONE OVER THERE

of uuu...
Both
SHE CAN SING IN THAT CAREFREE WAY ALL SHE WANTS
...UUUS!
eeds
The yellowing of ree...


...DO YOU HAVE PLANS AFTER WORK?
MISS
YES, I HAVE TO GO HOME
DOES HE WANT ME TO GO ON READING JUN TAKAMI TO HIM OR SOMETHING?
SOME OTHER TIME THEN
OH, OK

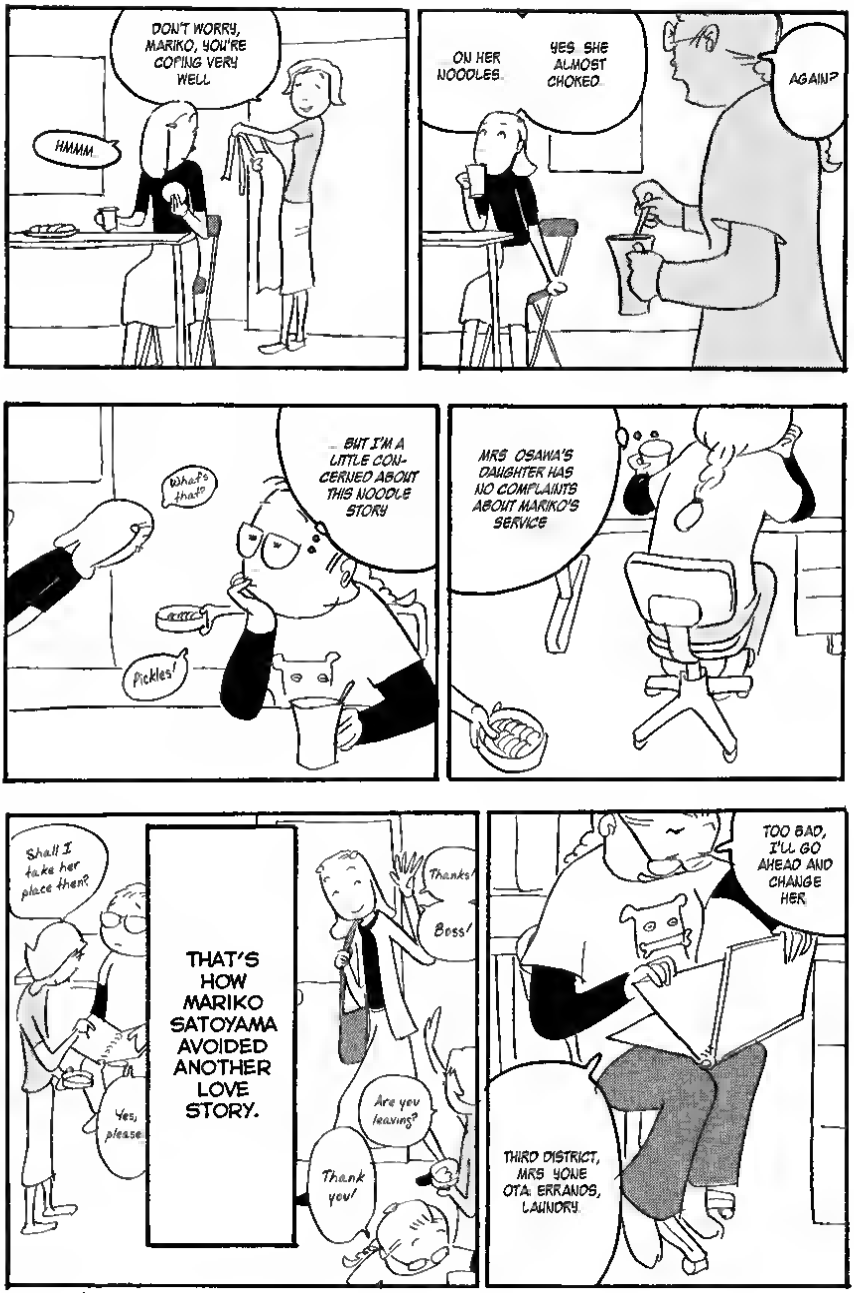

UH-OH!
Beeeep!!
UU
OH?
I'M SORRY, IT'S TIME I'M LEAVING!
...AND RETURN THE BOOK
GOTTA HURRY UP...


CLICK
IS THE 9TH
LET'S SEE, NEXT TUESDAY
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING!



(1) MATTRESS STUFFING

(2) ELDERLY SERVICE, WITH SMILE ADDED


DON'T WORRY, MARIKO, YOU'RE DOING VERY WELL
HMMM
OH HER NOODLES.
YES. SHE ALMOST CHOKED
AGAIN?
...BUT I'M A LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS NOODLE STORY
What's that?
Pickles!
MRS. OSAWA'S DAUGHTER HAS NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT MARIKO'S SERVICE
Shall I take her place then?
Yes, please.
THAT'S HOW MARIKO SATOYAMA AVOIDED ANOTHER LOVE STORY.
Thanks, Boss!
Are you leaving?
Thank you!
TOO BAD, I'LL GO AHEAD AND CHANGE HER
THIRD DISTRICT, MRS. YOUE OTA. ERRANDS, LAUNDRY.

THE END